CITY HILIGHTS

The Truth Speaks

FRIDAY ▸ FEBRUARY 20, 2026 ▸ VOL: 11 ▸ ISSUE: 217 ▸ PAGES 12 ▸ ₹2.00

IBC WORLD NEWS
CH ABC
Certified English Daily

Gujarat Budget charts high growth path P7

UN report accuses IDF, Hamas of war crimes in Gaza Strip P9

Lokah 2 Shooting to Begin September P12

www.ibcworldnews.com | BENGALURU ▸ HUBBALLI ▸ MANGALURU ▸ MYSURU ▸ KALABURAGI | cityhilights.news@gmail.com

INDIA AI SUMMIT 2026

MANAV: India's human-centric AI push

PM Modi rolls out India's MANAV Vision for AI --a human-first doctrine that puts ethics, accountability and data sovereignty at the core of AI. With a clear "design in India, develop for the world" message, Modi positioned India as both a tech powerhouse and a rule-setter in the AI age

NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday unveiled India's 'MANAV Vision' for artificial intelligence (AI) at the India AI Impact Summit 2026, outlining a human-centric framework for ethical, accountable and inclusive AI governance.

Addressing delegates at the summit in the national capital, the PM said, "Today at the New Delhi AI Impact Summit, I present the MANAV Vision for AI. MANAV means human."

Explaining the acronym, he said, "'M' stands for moral and ethical systems – AI should be based on ethical guidance. 'A' stands for accountable governance, meaning transparent rules and robust oversight. 'N' stands for national sovereignty – whose data, his right. 'A' stands for accessible and inclusive – AI should be a multiplier, not a monopoly. 'V' stands for valid and legitimate – AI should be lawful and verifiable."

"This MANAV vision of India will become an important link for the welfare of humanity in the AI-based world of the 21st century," he said.

Highlighting concerns around emerging risks, Modi stressed the need for stronger safeguards, particularly for children. "We have to be more cautious regarding children's safety. The AI space should also be child safe and family guided," he said.

Furthermore, PM Modi said the vision reflects the changing technological landscape. "We are entering an era where humans and intelligent systems co-create, cowork and co-evolve," he said.

Asserting India's growing capabilities in the sector, he added, "India sees a strong future in AI. We have the talent, energy capacity and policy clarity."

The MANAV doctrine of PM

The "MANAV" (Human) Vision, as articulated by PM Modi, represents a framework for human-centric AI, focused on ethical, accountable, and inclusive development.

MANAV stands for

- **M:** Moral and Ethical System
- **A:** Accountable Governance
- **N:** National Sovereignty
- **A:** Accessible and Inclusive
- **V:** Valid and legitimate

'AI RIVALS' ALTMAN-AMODEI REFUSE TO HOLD HANDS ON STAGE

The India AI Impact Summit has made headlines for both good and bad reasons. Now, there is an awkward moment to be added to the list. While Galgotias University on Tuesday caused global embarrassment to the country by showcasing a Chinese robodog as its own creation at the Summit exhibition, on Thursday we could see a real-time rivalry unfold between CEOs of two of the biggest AI firms right before our eyes. In a video which is now going viral, OpenAI CEO Sam Altman and Anthropic CEO Dario Amodei refused to hold hands for a group photo with Prime Minister Narendra Modi on stage. The tech giants, including Google CEO Sundar Pichai, had gathered on stage after Modi's address at the summit. Pichai and Altman were standing on either side of Modi, who held their hands aloft and asked others to join in.

'AI MODELS CAN LEARN LIKE PEOPLE': ALTMAN DEFENDS AI USE OF NEWS CONTENT

NEW DELHI: Sam Altman, Chief Executive Officer of OpenAI, on Thursday defended use of copyright news articles and opinion pieces in training AI models like ChatGPT, saying it followed the US principle of fair use. OpenAI, the company behind ChatGPT, aims to balance content use with collaboration with creators, he said. "Our stance is that when we're displaying a quote from a news article or an opinion piece or something like that, we want to do that in a way where we can explore new business models with creators for training," he said. He added that OpenAI relies on the US principle of fair use, noting that "models can learn like people can learn, but models also can't play tricks that people can't play."

OPENAI TO OPEN OFFICES IN B'LURU, MUMBAI

After Anthropic, OpenAI to open its offices in Bengaluru and Mumbai later this year. It already has its presence in New Delhi. "India is already leading the way in AI adoption, and with its homegrown tech talent, optimism about what AI can do for the country, and strong government support, it is well placed to help shape its future, said its CEO Altman.

India unveils 'New Delhi Frontier AI Commitments'

NEW DELHI

In a major milestone at the India AI Impact Summit 2026, Union Minister for Electronics and IT, Ashwini Vaishnaw, unveiled the New Delhi Frontier AI Commitments.

This framework represents a collaborative pledge by both Indian AI firms and global tech giants to foster inclusive and accountable AI development.

The announcement was marked by a high-profile gathering at Bharat Mandapam, where Prime Minister Narendra Modi was joined by global industry leaders including Sundar Pichai of Google, Sam Altman of OpenAI, Dario Amodei of Anthropic, and Alexandr Wang (Meta AI chief). The document outlines specific outcomes that signatories are expected to work towards, with two commitments detailed on the first day.

'A unified global vision'

The summit, built on the foundational pillars of People, Planet, and Progress, aims to position AI as a tool for shared global growth. Vaishnaw described these voluntary commitments as a "collaborative step" toward shaping technology that is not only advanced but also development-oriented.

Key pillars of the 'New Delhi Commitments'

The framework rests on two major pillars designed to shape how AI is used in the real world. **They are:**

- Data-Driven Policymaking: Using anonymized and aggregated insights to assist governments in evidence-based planning. This initiative aims to help institutions navigate shifting job trends, workforce planning, and skill development while maintaining strict privacy standards.
- Multilingual and Cultural Sensitivity: Strengthening AI evaluation for diverse linguistic and cultural contexts. This is particularly vital for the Global South, ensuring that AI systems are effective and relevant across different languages and local use cases.

Why these Commitments matter?

The Commitments highlight privacy safeguards, inclusivity, and global relevance in AI. By encouraging the publication of anonymised usage insights and broadening the scope of AI evaluation, the framework seeks to make AI development more transparent and equitable.

UK's ex-Prince Andrew arrested in Epstein-linked misconduct probe

LONDON

Andrew Mountbatten-Windsor, formerly Prince Andrew, has been arrested on suspicion of misconduct in public office related to his long-standing friendship with U.S. sex offender Jeffrey Epstein.

In a statement on Thursday, Assistant Chief Constable Oliver Wright of the Thames Valley Police said: "Following a thorough assessment, we have now opened an investigation into this allegation of misconduct in public office. It is important that we protect the integrity and objectivity of our investigation as we work with our partners to investigate this alleged offence."

The statement added that police officers "are carrying out searches at addresses in Berkshire and Norfolk" and that Mr. Mountbatten-Windsor "remains in police custody at this time." It's not clear where he is being held.

The police have been examining Mountbatten-Windsor's conduct as a British trade envoy between 2001 and 2011 and whether he gave Epstein access to government files. The former prince has denied the allegations.

The arrest came after pictures circulated online appearing to show unmarked police cars attending Wood Farm on the Sandringham Estate in Norfolk, with plainclothes officers appearing to gather outside his home.

'Law must take its course': King Charles

Britain's King Charles said on Thursday it was with "deepest concern" he had learnt about the arrest of his younger brother, former Prince Andrew, adding that the law must take its course. "I have learned with the deepest concern the news about Andrew Mountbatten-Windsor and suspicion of misconduct in public office," Charles said in a statement. "What now follows is the full, fair and proper process by which this issue is investigated in the appropriate manner and by the appropriate authorities... Let me state clearly: the law must take its course."

Windsor (66) recently moved to the Sandringham estate in Norfolk from Windsor on the orders of King Charles III.

IT'S IFTAR TIME

Muslims break their first day of fasting during Ramadan by attending an iftar at Majid Noor on Dickenson Road in Bengaluru on Thursday. ➤ CH PHOTO

Be ready for SIR: ECI to 18 states, 4 UTs

NEW DELHI:

The Election Commission of India (ECI) on Thursday asked 18 states and 4 Union Territories (UTs) to complete preparatory work related to the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) at the earliest as the exercise is "expected to start from April".

In a letter issued on Thursday, ECI Secretary Pawan Diwan asked Chief Electoral Officers (CEOs) of 18 states and 4 UTs that they should "complete preparatory work at the earliest" to ensure a smooth rollout of the Special Intensive Revision process. Andhra Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh, Chandigarh, Dadra and Nagar Haveli, Daman and Diu, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Ladakh, Maharashtra, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Delhi, Odisha, Punjab, Sikkim, Tripura, Telangana and Uttarakhand.

BJP will come to power on its own: BSY sounds poll bugle

BENGALURU

Amid power tussle between Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and his deputy DK Shivakumar, BJP veteran BS Yediyurappa on Thursday claimed the BJP would assume power "on its own."

With two years left for the next Assembly elections, Yediyurappa called upon party workers to ensure that the party comes to power 'independently' in the state in the 2028, dislodging the corrupt Congress government.

He was speaking after being felicitated for completing 50 years in politics at the party's state executive meeting in Bengaluru on Thursday.

Though BJP was in power for two terms in Karnataka, it has never won a simple majority on its own. Both times. Yediyurappa became the chief minister with the support of either independents or defectors, through a process that is now infamous as 'Operation Kamala'.

The 82-year-old leader, whose son BY Vijayendra is now the state unit president of the BJP, said he is fit and healthy. "God willing, I can tour the State for another five to six years. I am ready to come wherever you want me to work for the party," he said.

WHO WILL ULTIMATELY BEAR THE COST?

SC raps states over 'reckless' pre-poll freebie culture

NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Thursday delivered one of its sharpest judicial rebukes yet of the country's growing "freebies" culture, warning that indiscriminate welfare handouts risk weakening work incentives and undermining long-term economic development.

Hearing a plea filed by Tamil Nadu Power Distribution Corporation Limited, which proposed to provide free electricity to all irrespective of financial status of consumers, the court said it was understandable for governments to "hand-hold the poor", but providing free electricity and other benefits to all consumers without assessing financial capacity amounted to an appeasement policy.

A bench comprising Chief Justice Surya Kant and Justices Joymalya Bagchi and Vipul M Pancholi observed that most states were already revenue-deficit but continued to announce free food, cycles and electricity instead of investing in employment generation and development projects.

What kind of culture are we developing in India?

During the hearing, the court drew a distinction between welfare assistance for those unable to pay and universal benefits that include financially secure households. "What kind of culture are we developing in India? It is understandable that as part of the welfare measure you want to provide to those who are incapable of paying the electricity charges," the bench asked.

The observations came while hearing the Tamil Nadu power utility's challenge to Rule 23 of the Electricity (Amendment) Rules, 2024, framed by the Centre. The rule mandates cost-reflective tariffs and restricts the revenue gap between approved annual revenue requirement and estimated revenue from tariffs to 3%, except in cases of natural calamity.

The TN government has argued that the sustainability mandate directly affects its policy of providing free and subsidised electricity. In its plea, it has sought quashing of the rule, contending that it is arbitrary, unconstitutional, violative of Article 14 and ultra vires the Electricity Act, 2003.

The SC has issued notice to the Centre and other respondents on the plea and sought their response.

Need street-house-wise mapping to correct voter list errors: DKS

BENGALURU

Deputy Chief Minister and state Congress president DK Shivakumar on Thursday asked the State Election Commission (SEC) to conduct a "comprehensive street-wise and house-wise mapping" of voters in Bengaluru to address "serious and widespread" errors in the electoral rolls.

In a petition to State Election Commissioner GS Sangreshi, he said every street should be mapped to the correct polling station, every street to a house and every voter to the house.

Shivakumar, who is also the Bengaluru Urban Development Minister, said, "Such a Street-House-Voter mapping will ensure accuracy, prevent duplication and eliminate arbitrary shifting or deletion of voters."

His statement came at a time when the SEC is preparing the electoral rolls under the Greater Bengaluru Area (GBA) for the impending elections to the five municipal corporations in the city.

As per a Supreme Court directive, Bengaluru municipal elections should be held before June 30.

QUICK READ

SOPs Issued to Curb Fake Certificates in Government Colleges

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

The Department of Collegiate Education has issued standard operating procedures (SOPs) to government first-grade colleges across Karnataka to prevent the submission of fake academic and reservation certificates by guest faculty. The move follows allegations that some lecturers used forged PG, MPhil, PhD, NET, K-SET and Kalyana Karnataka reservation certificates to secure jobs. Colleges have been directed to form certificate verification committees to scrutinise documents thoroughly. Principals must ensure degrees are from universities recognised by the University Grants Commission. Fake certificates must be uploaded on the EMIS portal and the concerned faculty terminated immediately.

One-Time 5-Year Age Relaxation for State Civil Services Recruitment

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

The state government has granted a one-time relaxation of five years in the maximum age limit for candidates applying for direct recruitment to State Civil Services posts, according to an order issued on January 29, 2026.

The decision follows representations from job aspirants, public representatives and various organisations seeking age relaxation in recruitment notifications. After examining the requests, the government approved the special concession across all categories of candidates. The order was issued by the Department of Personnel and Administrative Reforms (Service Rules-1), providing relief to thousands of aspirants preparing for upcoming recruitment processes.

S Jarkiholi's Image Reflected in Mirror of Social Justice: KV Prabhakar

Prabhakar said the minister's organisational ability ensured a Congress victory that even media observers had not anticipated

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Chief Minister's Media Advisor KV Prabhakar said the image of Satish Jarkiholi is clearly reflected in the mirror of social justice, describing him as a leader whose commitment mirrors that of Siddaramaiah.

Speaking as chief guest at the Bangalore Press Club's Person of the Year award ceremony honouring Satish Jarkiholi, Prabhakar said it was most appropriate for the club to select Jarkiholi for the recognition. "We can clearly see Jarkiholi in the mirror of social justice because he has the same clarity and conviction as the Chief Minister. His hands are next to Siddaramaiah's, pulling the thread of social justice in the state," he said.

Responding to those who say Jarkiholi speaks briefly at public events, Prabhakar offered a metaphor. "When you stand on the shore, the sea looks calm. But its roar lies in its depth. Jarkiholi's roar is in the depth of his silence. That roar is visible in his work," he remarked. He added that Jarkiholi never chose "easy chair politics" but instead embraced a challenging path. Referring to the Shiggaon by-election, Prabhakar said the minister's organisational ability ensured a Congress victory that even media observers had not anticipated. He noted the extensive groundwork carried out by activists of the Humanity Forum across the constituency, describing it as a lesson in political mobilisation. "In an era when ideological politics is fading, they are building an ideological force across the state through the Humanity Forum," he said, contrasting it with the superficial popularity of fan-based politics.

The award was presented by senior socialist thinker and former Advocate General Ravi Varmakumar. MLA Rizwan Arshad, Press Club President Sridhar and other office-bearers were present at the event.

₹550-Crore Plan Ends Bellahalli Garbage Blockade

BENGALURU

A two-day stalemate between civic authorities and residents near the Bellahalli landfill ended after the state government announced a ₹550-crore infrastructure and development package for affected areas. The breakthrough is expected to restore normal garbage disposal operations that had come to a halt following protests by villagers over crumbling roads, groundwater contamination and deteriorating health conditions.

Nearly 600 families live in Bellahalli and Mittaganahalli, where the 30-acre landfill receives close to 1,500 tonnes of waste from the city every day. The blockade disrupted waste collection across several neighbourhoods in Bengaluru, with garbage piling up in areas such as Kalasipalya, JP Nagar, Konanakunte, RR Nagar, BTM Layout, Sahakarnagar, Rajajinagar, Basaveshwaranagar and Kammanahalli. Residents reported overflowing bins and uncollected waste, raising fears of fresh blackspots emerging across the city.

Authorities initially adopted a firm stance, with Deputy Chief Minister D K Shivakumar warning against prolonged disruption. However, villagers stood their ground, highlighting years of neglect.

Controversy over dumping resolved after assurance to protect residents' interests.

"We are living next to 1,500 tonnes of garbage every day. The smell is unbearable, groundwater is polluted, and we don't have regular drinking water supply," said Gangesh Manjunath of Mittaganahalli.

Another resident, Lakshmamma Gowda, said villagers depend on tanker water and have long sought basic facilities. "If the government can dump the city's waste here, can it not provide us with roads, water and healthcare?" she asked, calling the protest a last resort.

Late Wednesday, Bengaluru Solid Waste Management Limited (BWML) assured release of funds for village development. According to BWML CEO Kari Gowda, ₹90 crore each has been allocated for Mahadevapura, Byatarayanapura and Yeshwanthpur, ₹50 crore for Anekal, ₹20 crore for Bengaluru South and ₹10 crore for Doddaballapur. In Phase 2, an additional ₹100 crore each will be provided to Byatarayanapura and Mahadevapura.

Gowda also announced measures to regulate waste transport. "We have decided to minimise the number of vehicles going to the landfill in the coming months and to confine waste transportation in a more regulated manner," he said.

With assurances in place, residents lifted the blockade, signalling a temporary resolution to the long-simmering garbage controversy.

Rajiv Gandhi Public School Hosts Inventor 2025-26 Science Art Expo

BENGALURU

The Inventor 2025-26 Science Art Exhibition was held at Rajiv Gandhi Public School in Laggere, Rajiv Gandhi Nagar, showcasing innovative projects by students. The event was inaugurated by Dr Anjanappa, Director of the State Vokkaligara Sangha, who expressed confidence in the institution's commitment to providing quality education to underprivileged children.

He said it was a matter of pride for Laggere residents that the school's exhibition surpassed many others in creativity and presentation. Urging continued community support, he called upon parents and well-wishers to contribute to the school's further development.

School Secretary Dr K A Yuvaraju highlighted the crucial role of parents in shaping their children's future. "No one else can write your destiny. It depends on hard work and determination," he said, encouraging students not to stop striving until they achieve success.

Congress leader Laggere Narayaswamy, School President Dr K Venkatesh, Mallesh Gowda, Mallesh Kumar, teachers, parents and students were present at the programme.

Friend Uses Bengaluru Auto Driver's Account for Cybercrime

BENGALURU

A 23-year-old autorickshaw driver has accused his friend of misusing his bank account for cybercrime transactions and coercing him into opening another account in a different person's name. A complaint has been filed at the East Cyber Crime police station. According to the complaint, Sheikh Pardeen Ahmed, a resident of KG Halli, alleged that his acquaintance Najeem lured him into opening a bank account about a month ago. Najeem reportedly asked Ahmed if he had a bank account and, upon learning he did not, offered to help him open one. Ahmed stated that Najeem gave him ₹2,000 along with a mobile number and email ID and took him to a private bank in Banaswadi. While Najeem waited outside, Ahmed used his Aadhaar and PAN cards, along with the contact details provided, to open the account. The bank issued a passbook, cheque book and debit card the same day. However, Ahmed alleged that Najeem collected all the bank documents and card immediately after he exited the branch. Najeem allegedly told him that funds would be deposited into the account and promised a commission for withdrawing cash and handing it over.

Lingayat and Ganiga Not Mutually Exclusive Identities: High Court

BENGALURU

The Karnataka High Court has observed that Lingayat and Ganiga are not mutually exclusive identities, and that a person described as Lingayat in ancestral records may, upon proof, establish Ganiga identity within that fold.

In a recent order, Justice Suraj Govindaraj stated that Ganiga may subsist as a distinct caste group within the broader Lingayat fold.

The observation came while dismissing a petition filed by police constable T N Jagadeesh, who challenged the selection of Rajakumar Y Bilagi from Bagalkot as a Police Sub-Inspector under the 2A category. Jagadeesh, who belongs to the Vishwakarma community—also classified under Category 2A of the OBC list—alleged that Rajakumar falsely claimed to belong to the Lingayat Ganiga community to secure the post.

He contended that authorities should not have relied on school records where the word "Ganiga" was allegedly inserted to reflect "Hindu Ganiga Lingayat." According to him, school records of Rajakumar's father and other close relatives uniformly mentioned their caste as Hindu Lingayat.

However, the court noted that the Deputy Commissioner had examined school records and transfer certificates mentioning Ganiga, along with caste certificates issued to family members that corroborated the claim.

The cumulative documentary evidence, the judge held, satisfactorily established that Rajakumar belongs to the Ganiga community under Category 2A.

Development of Rural Areas is Priority: MLA ST Somashekar

BENGALURU

MLA S T Somashekar has said that comprehensive development of villages in rural areas remains his top priority.

He was speaking after inaugurating the construction of an additional building for the Anganwadi Centre and a new concrete road at Basaveshwara Nagar under Sulikere Gram Panchayat in the Yeshwantpur Assembly constituency.

Somashekar said significant emphasis has been placed on improving roads, internal streets and government schools across all villages under the Gram Panchayat. He noted that several public-friendly projects, including road paving, installation of streetlights and provision of drinking water facilities, have been initiated to enhance basic infrastructure.

To prevent rainwater from stagnating on roads, drainage works have also been taken up. "The aim is to ensure that rainwater flows smoothly through properly constructed drains instead of flooding streets," he said. He added that drainage work is already under way and remaining projects will be implemented in phases.

According to the MLA, nearly 80 per cent of development works in the area have been completed. He expressed confidence that the villages in the rural belt would soon be transformed into model areas with improved civic amenities and infrastructure.

Ramo Halli Agricultural Cooperative Society Vice President Thimmegowda, Gram Panchayat President Chikkanna, former President Shobha Thimmegowda, B Krishnappa, Ravi, PDO Veerabhadrappa, Secretary Umadevi and others were present on the occasion.

Intruder Slits Woman's Throat as Husband Sleeps beside Her in Bengaluru

BENGALURU

A 70-year-old woman was found murdered inside her home in Nelamangala on the outskirts of Bengaluru, in an attack that allegedly took place while her mentally challenged husband slept beside her.

The victim, Shobha, lived with her husband Ranganath in Kote Beedi, Hirapur locality. Police said the incident occurred around 1.03am when an intruder allegedly broke into the house and slit her throat. Ranganath, who has reportedly been mentally challenged for about 15 years, was found lying next to her and appeared unaware of the crime.

Police have arrested Shivakumar, a wholesale shop owner, in connection with the murder. Investigators suspect financial distress as the motive. According to officials, the accused was allegedly trying to clear debts amounting to around ₹8 lakh. Shobha, the daughter of a jewellery shop owner, was wearing substantial gold ornaments at the time of the attack. Police believe the accused searched the house for cash after killing her.

Couple had no children and lived alone. That day, they had returned from their routine morning walk. The crime came to light when a doctor arrived to administer physiotherapy.

The couple had no children and lived alone. Earlier that day, they had returned from their routine morning walk. The crime came to light when a doctor arrived to administer physiotherapy to Ranganath and discovered Shobha lying dead.

CCTV footage from the neighbourhood captured a man leaving on a motorcycle shortly after the incident. Police traced the vehicle's registration number through nearby cameras, leading them to Shivakumar. Further investigation is under way.

Spa Manager Kidnapped in Cinematic Style, Three Arrested

BENGALURU

In a dramatic late-night abduction on Shivaratri, three men allegedly intercepted a spa manager's motorcycle and kidnapped him in a car before assaulting and torturing him for three days. The Electronic City police rescued the victim and arrested all three accused.

The victim, S Asheeth Kumar (28), a native of Bihar residing in Anekal Tirupalya, works as a spa manager. His friend Mannukumar managed to escape from the abductors and alerted authorities, helping police crack the case.

The arrested accused have been identified as Akshay (26), a car driver from Jigani; Prajwal (25), a rowdy sheeter from Hompalaghatta under Bannerghatta police limits; and Manjunath of Mantapa village in Anekal taluk.

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY FOR YOUTH

Festo Opens New GCC in B'luru, Announces 600 Jobs

BENGALURU

Festo, a leading industrial automation and technical education firm, inaugurated its new Global Capability Center (GCC) in Bengaluru, marking 40 years of operations in India. The company announced plans to create around 600 new jobs in the region.

The 71,000 sq ft facility, located opposite Narayana Health City in Electronics City, Bommasandra, will focus on software development and data analytics, strengthening Festo's global digital and engineering capabilities.

Ravi Shastri, Managing Director, Festo India, said the new centre aligns with the company's vision of enabling automation for a sustainable future. "We are placing strong emphasis on world-class research and development with the support of talented Indian engineers," he noted.

Alok Maheshwari, Head of Festo India GCC, said India has remained a key market for four decades. "Through this centre, we aim to significantly expand our team capacity in the coming years," he added.

Festo Board Member Sebastian Beck said the company's four-decade journey reflects its confidence in India's industrial and technological potential. "India will play a crucial role in expanding Festo's global digital capabilities," he said.

Headquartered in Esslingen, Germany, Festo entered India in 1963 and established its official presence in 1986. It currently employs over 1,000 professionals nationwide, serving more than 25,000 customers with advanced automation solutions.

QUICK READ

Inspection Drive against Tobacco Act Violations in City

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

A special inspection drive has been launched within the Bengaluru North City Corporation limits to curb violations of the Cigarettes and Other Tobacco Products Act (COTPA) and raise public awareness. Officials conducted checks in Wards 11, 1, 23, 4 and 29, collecting fines totalling ₹11,700 from violators. The campaign, which will continue until February 26, 2026, aims to ensure strict enforcement of the law and promote awareness about tobacco control regulations. During the drive, authorities also shut down a shop found selling tobacco products near an educational institution for violating statutory norms.

Man Loses ₹64,000 While Booking Escort Service Online

BENGALURU

A 26-year-old private firm employee lost over ₹64,000 to cyber fraudsters after attempting to book escort services online. According to the complaint, a woman identifying herself as Ananya Reddy contacted him on Telegram and offered her services. After exchanging messages and personal details, they discussed the charges. On the pretext of collecting service and security fees, she allegedly convinced him to transfer ₹64,500 through multiple digital payment transactions. When she continued demanding more money, the victim grew suspicious, cancelled the booking and sought a refund. However, the woman had by then gone incommunicado. Police have registered a case and are investigating.

Never Lose Your Patriotism, DC Jagadish Tells Youth

Citizens must shun negativity and uphold unwavering love for nation

BENGALURU

Bengaluru City District Commissioner Jagadish has urged the youth to remain proud of the nation's progress and never lose their sense of patriotism, emphasising that India's growing global stature is driven by its young population.

Speaking after inaugurating a one-day training workshop on competitive examination preparation and cultural integration for students of Ambedkar Government Post-Matric Hostels, he said that though India gained Independence 78 years ago, it remains a young nation compared to many developed countries. Despite this, the country has emerged as the world's fourth-largest economy, posing a challenge to powerful nations.

The workshop was organised by the Dr B R Ambedkar Memorial Trust in collaboration with the Social Welfare Department and the State Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe Employees' Association. Jagadish noted that at the time of Independence, the country faced severe economic distress. However, through landmark initiatives such as the Green Revolution, White Revolution and industrial growth, India transformed its fortunes and is now making remarkable strides across sectors.

He advised civil services aspirants to cultivate discipline, hard work, honesty, integrity and a spirit of service from the beginning of their preparation. "No achievement in public service is possible without these qualities," he said.

Urging students to think beyond caste, religion and community, he stressed the importance of education, rationality, scientific temper and historical awareness in becoming responsible global citizens. "Only then can we give back meaningfully to the society into which we were born," he added.

Resource persons including Dr E Venkataiah (Retd), IRS officer Bhairappa, H Mahesh and Prof Narayan delivered lectures on competitive exam preparation, higher foreign studies and private sector job opportunities. Several officials, students and dignitaries were present.

One-Time Opportunity to Regularise Legacy Advertisements: Dr K V Rajendra

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

A One-Time Opportunity (OTO) has been announced under the Greater Bengaluru Area (Advertisement) Rules, 2025, to obtain permission for legacy advertisements and convert LED self-advertisement boards into commercial advertisement boards.

Dr K V Rajendra, Commissioner of the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike West City Corporation, urged eligible agencies and individuals to make use of the facility.

As per Rule 8 of the 2025 Rules, the OTO allows for regularisation of legacy advertisements and conversion of self-advertisement boards. For centralised monitoring, the government has appointed Karigowda, Chief Executive Officer of Bengaluru Solid Waste Management Limited, as the nodal officer.

Under Rule 8.7(i), agencies that had obtained permission under the BBMP Advertisement Bye-laws, 2006, for advertisements on private properties and paid the full advertisement tax are classified as legacy advertisement agencies. Rule 8.7(vii) further permits valid LED display boards approved under earlier bye-laws to be converted into commercial advertisement boards during this OTO period.

Eligible advertisers must submit applications on or before April 13, 2026, to the Office of the Commissioner, West City Corporation, Malleswaram, or to the Advertisement Section of the Greater Bengaluru Authority at N R Square.

Psychotropic Substance Eskuf Cough Syrup Seized

BENGALURU

The Bharathinagar Police Station arrested a person for allegedly selling psychotropic cough syrup without a valid licence and seized 73.2 litres of the banned substance, valued at ₹1.45 lakh. Based on credible information received, police learned that an individual was illegally stocking and selling Eskuf cough syrup—containing codeine phosphate and triprolidine—from a dilapidated building near a convention hall on Pine Road within the station limits. Acting swiftly, officers registered a case and conducted a raid at the location. During the operation, the accused was taken into custody. Upon interrogation, he reportedly confessed to selling the cough syrup to the public to earn illegal profits. Police seized 73.2 litres of Eskuf syrup (in 100 ml bottles) along with ₹2,230 in cash from his possession. The total value of the seized property is estimated at ₹1,45,000. The accused was produced before the jurisdictional court on February 11, 2026, and was remanded to judicial custody.

Everyone Must Join Hands to Eradicate Bonded Labour: ADC

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Additional Deputy Commissioner of Bengaluru City District Dr Jagadish K Nayak has called upon all sections of society to work collectively for the complete eradication of bonded labour, terming it a persistent social evil. He was speaking at a one-day workshop organised at the Deputy Commissioner's Office auditorium to mark the 50th anniversary of the Bonded Labour (Abolition) Act, 1976. The programme was jointly conducted by the District Administration and the Zilla Panchayat, Bengaluru City District. On the occasion of Abolition of Bonded Labour Day–2026, he administered a pledge for the eradication of the practice. Dr Nayak emphasised that education is the most powerful tool to eliminate bonded labour. He urged various government departments to function in coordination to identify and act against those perpetuating the system. "Strict legal action must be taken against anyone who insists on continuing bonded labour. Collective cooperation is essential to root out such practices entirely," he said.

HC Disposes of PIL Seeking Panel on City Traffic Congestion

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Rising traffic woes demand collective action and public cooperation.

The Karnataka High Court has disposed of a Public Interest Litigation (PIL) that sought the formation of a high-level committee under the court's supervision to address worsening traffic congestion in the capital city.

A division bench comprising Chief Justice Vibhu Bakhru and Justice C M Poonacha heard the petition filed by advocate A V Amaranathan, a Bengaluru resident. The petitioner, arguing in person, submitted that Bengaluru has become the second most congested city in the world and that citizens are facing daily hardships due to gridlocks.

He referred to remarks by Deputy Chief Minister D K Shivakumar, who had publicly acknowledged traffic concerns, stating that even his children had complained about the situation. The petitioner urged the court to constitute an expert committee under its supervision to find solutions.

However, the bench observed that the issue had already been taken note of by the government. "When the Deputy Chief Minister himself has considered the matter, what further order can the court pass?" the bench remarked. It added that authorities are expected to take appropriate measures to ease congestion and said there was no need for a specific judicial direction. The petition was accordingly disposed of.

Traffic congestion in Bengaluru has long disrupted daily life, delaying commuters heading to offices, schools, railway stations and airports. In November 2023, a concert by singer Hariharan reportedly began an hour late due to severe traffic snarls.

The plea also noted that complaints about congestion date back to the tenure of former Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai. According to the latest traffic index released by TomTom, Bengaluru ranks as the world's second most congested city.

JEE Exam–2026: Navodaya Vidyalaya Bagalur, Bengaluru Urban Secures 100% Result

BENGALURU

Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalaya Bagalur has achieved a remarkable 100 per cent result in JEE Mains–2026. All 194 Centre of Excellence (CoE) students of Class XII qualified in JEE Mains and are eligible to appear for JEE Advanced 2026, as per the 2025 cut-off data.

According to 2025 closing rank trends, 94.30 per cent (183 students) are eligible for seats in National Institutes of Technology (NITs). The performance reflects the institution's focused academic training and consistent mentoring. Among the top performers, Master Godavarthi Harshit Visweswar secured an outstanding 99.9992111 percentile, followed by Master Adarsh Gupta with 99.9924416 percentile and Master Prateek Sharma with 99.9870460 percentile. Two students achieved a perfect 100 percentile in Physics. Subject-wise, 43 students scored above the 99 percentile in Physics, 62 in Chemistry, and 37 in Mathematics.

In the overall percentile distribution, 62 students scored 99 and above, 83 students were in the 95–99 range, 33 in the 90–95 range, 13 in the 75–90 range, and only three students scored below 75 percentile.

K. J. George Orders Swift Action on Infra Issues in K. G. Halli

BENGALURU

K. J. George, Energy Minister and Sarvagnanagar MLA, conducted an extensive field visit in Kadugondanahalli (K.G. Halli), reaffirming that people are the true custodians of democracy. Beginning at Pillanna Garden, he toured Vinoba Nagar, Bharat Mata Layout, Venkateshpur, Rashad Nagar and areas near Nagawara Main Road Metro Station, interacting directly with residents and addressing civic concerns. Walking through five blocks of Pillanna Garden, he reviewed issues related to Slum Development Board housing and drinking water supply. In Vinoba Nagar and Bharat Mata Layout, residents reported persistent water shortages. Summoning Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board (BWSSB) officials, he demanded a clear deadline for providing clean water connections.

PENALTY FOR NON-PAYMENT OF TAX

Auction of 71 Properties in West Zone-2 Over Tax Dues

BENGALURU

The Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) has initiated action to auction 71 properties in West Zone-2 for non-payment of property tax amounting to ₹1.14 crore.

Joint Commissioner Sangappa stated that auction proceedings will be conducted on February 21 after repeated notices to defaulters failed to yield results. The pending dues pertain to properties under Malleswaram Zone-2 of the Bengaluru West City Corporation. Property tax collected in the zone is utilised for development and maintenance of civic infrastructure and essential public amenities.

Under the Greater Bengaluru Governance Act, 2025, property owners within corporation limits are mandated to pay property tax every financial year. In cases of default, action is taken as per the Property Tax Assessment, Collection and Administration Rules, 2024. Authorities have issued show-cause and demand notices to the defaulters. Intimations were also sent through mobile messages, personal visits and by affixing notices on the properties concerned. Despite sufficient opportunities, the identified property owners failed to clear their dues, prompting officials to initiate distress sale proceedings as per law. Properties earlier notified for auction on February 17 but remaining unsold, along with those scheduled for February 21, will now be auctioned collectively on February 21 at 11 am. The auction will be held at the Office of the Joint Commissioner, Malleswaram Zone-2, Rajajinagar. Members of the public and interested bidders have been invited to participate. Officials clarified that if property owners clear their outstanding dues in full before the auction, their properties will be withdrawn from the process.

QUICK READ

Mother, two children missing in Sandur Taluk

Ballari

The Choranur Police Station has appealed for public help to locate 28-year-old Sunita and her children, Samarth (9) and Satvik (5), who went missing on February 7. Sunita is about 5.2 feet tall, with a chubby face, wheatish complexion, and was wearing a green-and-white saree with a brown blouse. Samarth is 3.6 feet tall in a yellow shirt and blue pants, and Satvik is 2.4 feet tall in a blue shirt and pants. Anyone with information is urged to contact Choranur Police Station (08395-295100, 9480803063), CPI Sandur (08395-260100, 9480803036), or Torangallu DSP (08391-220326, 9480803010).

Mega job fair for physically challenged candidates in Mandya

Mandya

A district-level mega job fair will be held on February 21 at 9 am at Mandya University, organized jointly by the district administration and various departments. Unemployed persons with disabilities aged 18 to 45 who have completed SSLC or higher education are eligible to participate. Candidates must bring documents including disability certificate, educational qualification certificates, and Aadhaar card. Officials said the fair aims to provide employment opportunities and support for differently-abled youth in the district. For further information, participants can contact the District Disabled and Senior Citizen Welfare Officer at 9449300822.

Shivaji legacy inspires culture and courage: Murthy

The ADC highlighted Shivaji's life, urging youth to embrace his loyalty, honesty, planning, and ideals in daily life

MANDYA

Veer Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj protected Indian art, literature and culture at a time when foreign powers were attacking the country, said Additional Deputy Commissioner B.C. Shivananda Murthy. He was speaking after inaugurating the Shivaji Jayanti programme at Nalwadi Shri Krishnaraja Wodeyar Kalamandir library hall on Wednesday. The event was organized jointly by the District Administration and the Kannada and Culture Department.

Shivananda Murthy said Shivaji Maharaj was born in 1630 in Maharashtra and was trained in warfare by Dadaji Kondadeva. From a young age, his mother Jijabai narrated stories from the Ramayana and Mahabharata, shaping his values of justice, courage and devotion.

He said Shivaji rose from humble beginnings and built a strong empire that safeguarded Indian traditions. By using clever guerrilla warfare strategies, he defeated powerful enemies and protected his people. His family later ruled for more than 250 years.

The ADC noted that Shivaji's life teaches valuable lessons even today. Success can be achieved through loyalty, honesty and proper planning. He urged people, especially youth, to understand Shivaji's ideals and follow them in daily life.

He added that Shivaji Jayanti is celebrated with pride and unity by the Maratha community and others across the country, as a tribute to a fearless leader who stood for culture and self-respect.

Several officials and community leaders, including Urban Development Authority Chairman Dr. P. Prakash and members of the Maratha Samaj, attended the programme.

Flyover contractor faces blacklist warning

The Deputy Commissioner, with MLA Mahesh Tenginakai, inspected construction from Hosur Cross to Chennamma Circle, while flyover work continues at Old Court Circle and Lamington Road

HUBBALLI

Dharwad Deputy Commissioner Snehal R. has warned that the contractor handling the flyover work in Hubballi will be blacklisted if the project is not completed within the given deadline. She said the work near Chennamma Circle must be finished within four to six months.

The Deputy Commissioner visited the construction sites at Chennamma Circle and Hosur Circle along with local MLA Mahesh Tenginakai. They walked from Hosur Cross to Chennamma Circle to personally check the progress. Flyover work is also under way at Old Court Circle and Lamington Road.

Speaking to reporters, Snehal R. said she recently took charge as Deputy Commissioner and wanted to review the project on the ground. She admitted that some work is still pending near Chennamma Circle and Hosur Road. A meeting will be held next week to discuss coordination issues and speed up the project.

She said working in the heart of the city brings many challenges. Underground cables and pipelines must be shifted before digging. Traffic congestion has also slowed progress. She added that public inconvenience is unavoidable during major development works.

The DC recalled a past incident in which an Assistant Sub-Inspector lost his life during construction. For safety reasons, officials have advised that certain works be carried out at night.

Snehal R. made it clear that strict action will be taken if there is any delay or compromise in quality. She assured citizens that the flyover will be completed within six months.

The event, led by Dr. Channamallikarjuna Shivacharya Mahaswamiji, will host ministers, MPs, MLAs, board chairman, and former minister

State agriculture fair at Honnali Math

SHIVAMOGGA

A four-day State-level Agriculture Fair will be held at Honnali Hirekal Math on February 27, 28, March 1 and 2. The event is being organised on the occasion of the 56th Punyaradhana of Lingaykya Sri Mrityunjaya Shivacharya Mahaswamiji and the 11th Punyasmarana of Sri Chandrashekhara Shivacharya Mahaswamiji.The fair will bring together farmers, religious leaders, public representatives, and cultural artists from across Karnataka. Along with the agriculture exhibition, there will be a farmers' conference, stalls showcasing modern agricultural equipment, and guidance sessions on improved farming practices. Progressive farmers from different districts will be felicitated for their achievements.

A donation lecture, mass marriage ceremony, and cultural programs have also been arranged as part of the celebrations. Free prasadam will be distributed to devotees and visitors throughout the event. Dignitaries who have contributed to religious and social service will be honoured during the program.

The event will be held under the leadership of Sri Dr. Channamallikarjuna Shivacharya Mahaswamiji. Several prominent leaders are expected to attend, including S.S. Mallikarjuna, District Incharge Minister of Davangere, MPs B.Y. Raghavendra and Dr. Prabha Mallikarjuna, Honnali MLA D.G. Shantanagoudru, Bayaluseema Area Development Board Chairman H.B. Manjappa, and former Minister Renukacharya.

Details about the fair were shared during a press conference at Patrika Bhavan in Shivamogga. Organisers said the event aims to support farmers by promoting new technologies, encouraging knowledge sharing, and strengthening rural development. The fair is expected to attract a large number of farmers and devotees from across the state, making it both a spiritual and agricultural gathering.

Shivaji Maharaj inspires pride and unity: Sridhar

GADAG

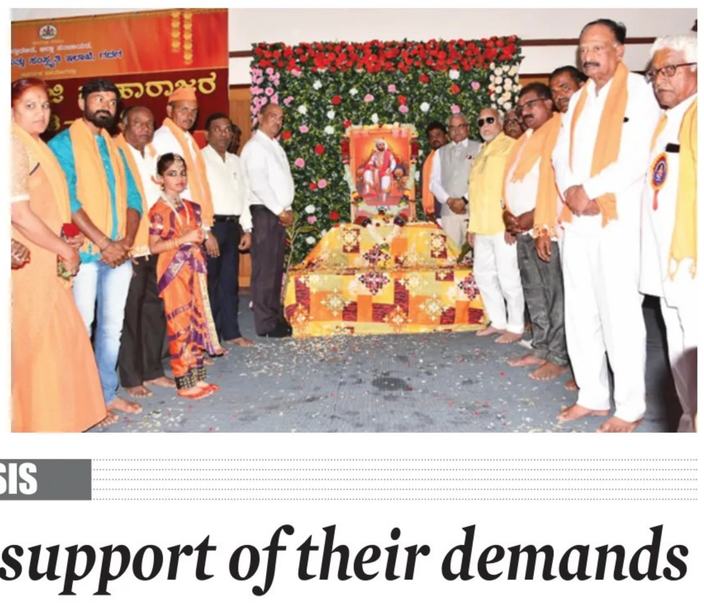
Deputy Commissioner C.N. Sridhar said that Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj remains a symbol of power and self-respect for the nation. He spoke while inaugurating Shivaji Maharaj Jayanti celebrations at the Auditorium Hall of the District Administration Building, organised jointly by the Gadag District Administration, Zilla Panchayat, and the Kannada and Culture Department.

He described Shivaji as a true patriot and visionary leader who worked for the welfare of his people. Inspired by his mother Jijabai, Shivaji grew into a disciplined and courageous ruler. The Deputy Commissioner said Shivaji fulfilled his mother's dream of Swarajya and built a strong administration based on justice and values. He urged everyone to follow Shivaji's life principles.

Senior lawyer Sudhirsimha Ghorpade said Shivaji's ideals belong to all communities. Born in 1630 at Shivneri Fort, Shivaji dreamed of self-rule at a young age. With the support of farmers and local warriors, he captured several forts from Mughal control using guerrilla warfare. In 1674, he was crowned at Raigad Fort and declared himself Chhatrapati, marking the rise of a powerful native kingdom.

Several dignitaries attended the event, including Urban Development Authority Chairman Akbarasaab Babarchi and Additional Deputy Commissioner Dr. Duragesha K.R. Students who secured top ranks in SSLC and PUC were honoured, along with achievers from various fields.

The program featured patriotic songs by Veeranna Angadi's team, a Jain cultural narration by Bahubali, and a dance performance by Ms. Swarasindhu, making the celebration both inspiring and cultural.



Mandya farmers advised to sell ragi under MSP

MANDYA

Under the Minimum Support Price (MSP) Scheme for 2025-26, farmers in Mandya district can sell FA-quality ragi at government-approved rates during the monsoon season. The Karnataka Food and Civil Supplies Corporation Limited has been appointed as the official procurement agency for the district this year.

The procurement period will continue until 31 March. Farmers can sell up to 10 quintals per acre, with a maximum limit of 50 quintals per farmer. The MSP has been fixed at Rs. 4,486 per quintal.

Procurement centres have been opened across the district at key taluk locations, including APMC premises in Nagamangala, Kadaballi Bellur, KR Pete, Kikkeri, Kallahalli, Mandya, Maddur, Malavalli, and Pandavapura. Farmers are encouraged to bring their ragi produce to these centres and ensure proper documentation to avail the MSP benefits.

Authorities urged farmers to utilize the scheme fully to safeguard their income and receive timely payments for their produce.

Youth urged to reject tobacco habit

KOPPAL

District Health and Family Welfare Officer Dr. T. Lingaraju has called upon the young generation to stay away from tobacco and help build a healthy society. He spoke after inaugurating a one-day training workshop for National Service Scheme students at the Old District Hospital auditorium.

The programme was organized by the District Administration, Zilla Panchayat, District Health Department and District Tobacco Control Cell under the National Tobacco Control Programme. Doctors explained the serious health dangers caused by tobacco use.

Dr. Lingaraju said tobacco in the form of cigarettes, bidis, cigars and hookah leads to cancer, heart disease, lung problems and stroke. He quoted the World Health Organization, stating that every cigarette smoked can shorten life by about seven minutes. Tobacco contains nicotine and thousands of harmful chemicals. He warned that women who consume tobacco face risks such as miscarriage, cervical cancer and low birth weight babies. Globally, more than 60 lakh people die each year due to tobacco-related diseases. District Implementation Officer Dr. Ravindranath M.H. said quitting tobacco improves heart and lung function. He encouraged students to choose healthy food and focus on studies instead of bad habits.

Mahantesh B. Ullagaddi from the State Tobacco Control Cell explained the provisions of the COTPA Act, 2003. Smoking in public places, advertising tobacco products and selling them near educational institutions are punishable offences.Officials urged students to spread awareness and make use of de-addiction centres. Several health officers and NSS volunteers attended the workshop.

Student leader arrested in assault case

SHIVAMOGGA

Bengaluru police have arrested D.R. Girish, State president of the Banjara Students' Union, on charges of sexually assaulting a 19-year-old engineering student. The action followed a complaint lodged at the Gnanabharati police station. The accused has been remanded to judicial custody and shifted to Parappana Agrahara Central Prison.

According to the complaint, Girish, a B.E. student in a Bengaluru college, allegedly abused the survivor between January and July 2025 after promising to marry her. He is also accused of threatening to circulate her private photographs and messages when she later insisted on marriage. Based on the complaint, police have registered a case under IPC sections related to sexual assault, cheating and criminal intimidation.

Sources said the accused had come in contact with the survivor two years ago while supporting a victim in a separate case at a college in Shivamogga, during which he allegedly gained her trust.

Bank ordered to refund ₹95,250 to customer

District Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission

सत्यमेव जयते

BALLARI

In a case of unauthorized money transfer, the District Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission has directed the Bank of Baroda, Torangal branch, to return funds and provide compensation to the affected customer.

Shantal Y., who held a salary account at the branch, discovered that Rs. 95,250 was withdrawn from his account on April 1 and 2, 2025, without his authorization. The customer did not receive any SMS alerts for these transactions, and the fraud was discovered only when his account showed insufficient balance on April 3. He immediately filed complaints with the bank and the Cyber Crime Police Station. The bank had initially denied responsibility, stating that SMS alerts are sent for every transaction.

Commission Chairman N. Thippeswamy and woman member Marla Sasikala noted that the lack of SMS notification revealed shortcomings in the bank's service. Following RBI guidelines, the Commission ruled that the bank must bear the loss as the complaint was filed promptly.

The order mandates the bank to return Rs. 95,250 with 6% interest from the date of filing the complaint. Additionally, Rs. 10,000 has been awarded as compensation for mental harassment and service deficiency, and Rs. 5,000 as complaint costs. The total amount must be paid to the customer within 45 days.

This ruling reinforces that banks are responsible for safeguarding customer accounts and following proper transaction alert procedures.

CONTRACTOR PAYMENT CRISIS

Contractors plan indefinite protests in support of their demands

HAVERI

State Contractors Association President R. Manjunath has announced that contractors across Karnataka will observe a one-day symbolic strike on March 05 if their pending payment demands are not cleared. He warned that if the government fails to respond even after that, an indefinite strike will be launched after April.

Speaking at a media conference on Wednesday, Manjunath said contractors have bills worth nearly ₹37,000 crore pending for the last two and a half years. According to him, ₹8,000 crore is due from the Public Works Department, ₹13,000 crore from the Water Resources Department, ₹3,800 crore from RDPR, ₹2,800 crore from Housing and Urban Development, ₹2,000 crore from the Labour Department, ₹1,600 crore from BBMP, and ₹2,600 crore from Housing and Wakf.

He said contractors had trusted the Chief Minister to clear the dues and had submitted several requests to ministers.

Meetings were held, but no final decision was taken. Since it is a financial matter, he said only the Chief Minister can resolve it.

Manjunath clarified that contractors have not threatened the government but are only demanding payment for work already completed. He added that no meeting has been held with the association in the last two and a half years.

He denied making direct allegations but admitted that commission issues arise while releasing funds. He urged the government to clear the dues immediately, saying contractors are struggling to survive without payments.

APPOINTMENT ORDERS GIVEN TO 194 STAFF

The Minister highlighted Anganwadi workers' role, introducing modern education, LED TVs, RO units, and permanent buildings for development

CHIKKABALLAPUR

In a transparent and merit-based selection process, 31 Anganwadi workers and 163 helpers received their appointment orders in Chikkaballapur, said Higher Education and District In-charge Minister M. C. Sudhakar. He emphasized that no political influence or recommendation played a role, and all candidates were chosen based on marks, qualifications, and local residence criteria.

The ceremony was held at Zilla Kannada Bhavan, organized jointly by the District Administration, Zilla Panchayat, and Women and Child Development Department. Minister Sudhakar said that Anganwadi positions, once considered less desirable, now see high demand and strong competition due to the growing awareness of their importance in society. He urged the newly appointed staff to work diligently, providing children with early education and support, especially for children from underprivileged families.

The Minister added that Anganwadi workers play a crucial role in nurturing children, teaching basic skills, and helping in their overall development. Discussions are ongoing to introduce nursery and Montessori-style education in Anganwadis in the Kalyana Karnataka region as part of the National Education Policy. As part of modernization, LED smart TVs are being distributed to 730 Anganwadis, and 750 RO water units will improve hygiene and health for children. Efforts are also being made to provide permanent buildings for 320 Anganwadis now operating in rented spaces.

MLA Pradeep Eshwar encouraged staff to help eliminate caste-based discrimination and ensure services are available to all children fairly. Incentives were distributed to inter-caste couples, ration cards were given to new beneficiaries, and various welfare benefits were provided to eligible residents. The program was attended by Deputy Commissioner G. Prabhu, Zilla Panchayat CEO Dr. Y. Naveen Bhat, police officials, and several district officers, along with the newly appointed Anganwadi staff and helpers.

This initiative highlights the district's commitment to child welfare, education, and social equality, giving new staff the tools and responsibility to shape future generations effectively.

QUICK READ

KSRTC clarifies work at Challakere stall

Chitradurga

Karnataka State Road Transport Corporation (KSRTC) Chitradurga Divisional Controller Venkatesh has clarified that renovation work at a stall in Challakere bus stand was permitted in the corporation's financial interest. Responding to media reports about alleged vandalism, he said the general stall had remained vacant from January 2020 to September 2023, drawing audit objections. To improve business, the selected bidder added a north-side door and installed a rolling shutter at personal cost under engineers' supervision, without damaging the building. The work was approved to increase revenue and utilize the long-vacant commercial space effectively.

Chitradurga Police seek bike owners' documents

Chitradurga

The Chitradurga Kote Police Station has asked the public to produce documents for 30 motorcycles that have been in police custody for five to six years. The bikes include models from Hero Honda, Bajaj, Honda Activa, TVS, and others. Police said the 2nd Additional Senior Civil Judge and JMFC Court approved disposal of unclaimed bikes. Owners or heirs have 10 days to identify their motorcycles at the station and submit documents. If no claims are made, the bikes will be valued by regional transport authorities, sold through public auction, and a report submitted to the court.

Two Kalaburagi policemen suspended over gambling

Kalaburagi

Kalaburagi Police Commissioner Dr. Sharanappa S.D. has suspended two police personnel after they were caught gambling in a public area near the road connecting Diggaon village to Benakanahalli, under Chittapur police station limits. The suspension is pending a departmental inquiry.The suspended officers are Civil Police Constable Gurunath (CPC 76) of M.B. Nagar police station and Armed Reserve Unit Constable Madiwalappa (APC 297). Both were apprehended by Chittapur police on 17 February while engaging in gambling activities. The Commissioner's decision followed a report submitted by District Superintendent of Police Addur Srinivasulu. Authorities have stated that strict action will be taken against any personnel violating departmental rules, emphasizing the need for police officers to uphold public trust and maintain integrity. The inquiry will determine further disciplinary measures based on the findings.

DC inspects offices, development works in Basavan Bagewadi

VIJAYAPURA

At Mega Market, he urged quick auction of 54 shops, cleanliness, reviewed Ingaleshwar Road housing, and inspected Nandi Market, Mangal Karyalaya, Shadi Mahal, and Basava Bhavan

Deputy Commissioner Dr. Anand K. visited Basavan Bagewadi taluk and reviewed several government offices and ongoing development projects. At the Taluk Administrative Complex, he inspected the Tahsildar's office, instructing officials to ensure quick disposal of pending files and maintain courteous behaviour while serving the public.

He then visited the modern record room under the Revenue Department's land records digitisation program. Dr. Anand directed data entry operators to scan 15,000–20,000 pages daily and complete the project by March 31, 2026, to make land records easily accessible to the public.

At the Mega Market, he asked officials to expedite the auction of 54 vacant shops and maintain cleanliness. Reviewing the group housing project along Ingaleshwar Road, he instructed municipal authorities to provide basic amenities and hand over houses to 109 beneficiaries who have completed payments. He also inspected completed works at Nandi Market, the Mangal Karyalaya construction, Shadi Mahal near Gandhinagar, and Basava Bhavan, stressing cleanliness and timely completion.

At the Town Municipal Council office, Dr. Anand directed officials to distribute computerised house property extracts door-to-door, intensify tax collection, and ensure proper segregation and disposal of wet and dry waste. He also emphasised drainage maintenance and overall sanitation for public convenience.

Finally, he visited Managooli, inspected the playground development at Government Degree College, and reviewed tank development work by the Minor Irrigation Department, instructing timely completion.

Basavan Bagewadi Tahsildar Y.S. Somanakatte, Urban Development Cell Project Director B.A. Saudagar, AEE Vilas Rathod, Municipal Office Manager Suresh Bagewadi, Revenue Officer Shabbir Revurkar, Health Inspector Mahesh Hiremath, and Revenue Inspector Siddu Shirashyad were present during the inspections.

Shivaji Jayanti inspires youth towards progress: Kumaraswamy

CHITRADURGA

Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj is a symbol of courage and national pride, said Additional Deputy Commissioner B.T. Kumaraswamy. He described Shivaji as the guiding star of Indian history while speaking at the Shivaji Jayanti celebration held at the Deputy Commissioner's office hall on Thursday.

The event was jointly organized by the District Administration, Zilla Panchayat, Kannada and Culture Department, and the Municipal Council. Kumaraswamy said Shivaji learned bravery and values from his mother Jijabai during childhood. Inspired by the Ramayana and Mahabharata, he dreamed of Swarajya and later achieved it. He added that the respect given to women during Shivaji's rule remains an example for society.

He said today education is the strongest weapon, not swords. Referring to 3A reservation for the Maratha community, he urged youth to use this opportunity for higher studies and government jobs. He also highlighted the Maratha Development Corporation, encouraging people to use its loan schemes for economic growth.

Urban Development Authority Chairman M.K. Tajpir said Shivaji Maharaj inspires everyone. He asked the Maratha community to preserve Marathi language and traditions. He noted Shivaji's religious tolerance and said many Muslims served in his army. He also called for developing memorials of Shahaji Bhosle near Channagiri and wrestler Nanjappa of Chitradurga.

Other speakers said such celebrations should lead to unity and progress. Cultural programs were held, and officials and community leaders attended the function.

Security includes 50 CCTVs, lighting, NDRF deployment, crowd control, road repairs, encroachment removal, and bans on liquor and animal sacrifices

Authorities ensure safe fair preparations for devotees

CHITRADURGA

The Nayaknahatti Sri Guruthipperudraswamy fair will be held from February 27 to March 9, with the chariot festival on March 6. Additional Deputy Commissioner B.T. Kumaraswamy chaired a progress review meeting on Thursday and instructed officials to ensure all preparations are made so devotees do not face any problems during the fair.

He directed that sub-committees should carry out their responsibilities efficiently. Water supply must be uninterrupted, water tanks cleaned, and samples tested to prevent contamination. Gram Panchayat officials were asked to repair water tanks for both devotees and cattle. Due to rising temperatures, health and hygiene precautions were emphasized, including awareness posters, ORS packets, and medicines. Four first-aid stations, four ambulances, and 60 beds at the nearby CHC hospital will serve devotees, supported by 200 health personnel, including pediatricians.

Security measures include installing 50 new CCTVs at parking areas, enhancing lighting, deploying NDRF teams, and crowd control. Loudspeakers and generator backups will be set up for emergency announcements. Authorities were instructed to identify unsafe buildings along Rathbedi and prevent access. Road repairs, clean drains, and removal of encroachments were emphasized to ensure smooth movement. Animal sacrifices are banned, and liquor sale will be prohibited within a 10 km radius for two days.

Additional Deputy Commissioner B.T. Kumaraswamy also strictly instructed that no political or personal banners will be allowed; only official public boards and temple signs are permitted. Departments are preparing emergency services for devotees, cattle, fire safety, and chariot security.

Sub-Divisional Officer Kantaraja, Temple Executive Officer Gangadhar, KSRTC Divisional Controller Venkatesh, Regional Transport Officer Bharat M. Kalesinghe, Urban Development Project Director Reshma Hanagal, and other officials attended the meeting to coordinate fair arrangements.

Shivaji's leadership shows visionary administrative skills

UDUPI

Chhatrapati Shivaji's administrative acumen, courage and strong personality reflect his visionary leadership, said M.A. Gafoor, president of the Mangaluru Coastal Development Board. He was speaking at the Chhatrapati Shivaji Jayanti programme held at the Government Girls' High School auditorium in Udupi on Wednesday. The event was jointly organised by the district administration, Zilla Panchayat, Kannada and Culture Department, Karnataka Kshatriya Maratha Parishad (R) and Chhatrapati Shivaji Multipurpose Cooperative Society (R).

Gafoor said Shivaji displayed leadership qualities from a young age, drew inspiration from his mother and upheld great respect for women, striving to build an egalitarian society. His governance was marked by progressive policies, merit-based appointments in the navy and other services, and welfare-oriented administration that rose above caste and religious barriers. He also built a strong naval force to safeguard the coastline.

Urban Development Authority chairman Dinakar Heroor noted that Jayanti celebrations of great leaders guide the youth. Retired MIT Manipal professor Dr. Narayan Shenoy recalled that Shivaji, born on February 19, 1640, worked for social reform and efficient resource management.

Powerlifter Pratiksha Nayak was felicitated. Several dignitaries, students and community members attended.

Shivaji name stands for strength: Arundhati

CHIKKABALLAPUR

Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj's name is a symbol of courage and sacrifice, and he remains one of India's bravest kings who protected Hinduism, said Arundhati, Assistant Officer of the District Administration Building. She spoke at the "Shri Chhatrapati Shivaji Jayanti" program organized at the District Collector's Office Hall in collaboration with the District Administration, Zilla Panchayat, and Kannada and Culture Department, paying floral tributes to Shivaji's portrait.

Arundhati highlighted that Shivaji's bravery, patriotism, and adventurous spirit continue to inspire people, and his principles should guide daily life. Social worker and community leader Anil Kumar shared how visiting Hampi at age 14 inspired him, leading to the founding and expansion of the Maratha Empire. Shivaji Maharaj fought tirelessly to protect his empire from the Mughals and worked to unite Hindustan under self-respect and justice.

Born on February 19, 1630, at Shivneri Fort in Pune, Maharashtra, Shivaji showed leadership from an early age. Under his mother's guidance, he learned discipline, religion, and fairness. Known for his fearlessness and respect for women, he pioneered guerrilla warfare in India. By age 16, he captured Shivneri Durga Fort and gradually expanded his empire across western India, including Tamil Nadu. He established a navy of 160 ships along the Konkan coast. His rule also preserved many ancient Hindu temples in South India.

During the event, community leaders and talented students, including Sudarshan Rao, Pritam Rao, and Prajwal Rao, were felicitated. Zilla Panchayat Chief Accountant Raghu, Maratha community leaders Dr. Suresh Babu, Jai Munirao, Ishwar Rao, Girish, district officials, and other community representatives attended the program, celebrating Shivaji Maharaj's enduring legacy and values.

CIPET Chikkaballapur to host Open House Program

CHIKKABALLAPUR

The Central Institute of Petrochemicals Engineering and Technology (CIPET), Mysuru, will organise an Open House on February 20 and 21 from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. An autonomous institute under the Union Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers, CIPET provides technical education and skill training for the polymer and plastics industries. Visitors can witness live demonstrations of advanced machinery, laboratories, tool rooms and manufacturing units. Faculty and industry experts will offer guidance on courses, internships and career opportunities. The programme is open to students and the public. For details, contact Principal Director Shrikant Shirali at 9480253024 or 9791431827.

HORTICULTURE ART DISPLAY

Grand Fruit Flower Expo from today

CHITRADURGA

The 33rd Fruit and Flower Exhibition will be held from February 20 to 22 at the District Horticulture Office premises in V.P. Badawan, said Zilla Panchayat Chief Executive Officer Dr. S. Akash at a press conference on Thursday. The event is jointly organized by the District Administration, Zilla Panchayat, Horticulture Department and District Horticulture Association.

Dr. Akash said the exhibition will showcase creative floral artworks based on Sri Tipperudraswamy of Nayakanahatti, noted writer B.L. Venu, and environmentalist Salumarada Thimmakka. Sand sculptures of Onake Obavva and Ontikallu Basavanna, models of historic forts, bee pollination awareness themes, and traditional animal leaf art will add color and meaning to the show.

More than 500 varieties of fruits, vegetables, flowers and ornamental plants grown by farmers across the district will be displayed. Over 70 types of flower plants including dahlia, salvia, marigold, petunia, balsam and geranium will attract flower lovers. Decorative arrangements, vegetable carvings and dwarf plant displays are also planned.

Competitions such as rangoli, painting, essay writing, fancy dress using fruits and flowers, and garden contests have been arranged for students, farmers and the public. Winners will receive prizes at the valedictory function.

A seminar will guide farmers on scientific farming, intercropping and modern technology. Officials said crop insurance worth Rs.15 crore for areca, coconut and mango growers will be credited directly to farmers soon.

Dr. Akash invited families from Chitradurga and nearby taluks to visit the exhibition and support local farmers. Many officials and association members attended the press conference.

QUICK READ

Heli tourism to begin at Budanur Festival

Mandya

Helicopter joy rides will start on February 20 in Chikkamandya during the Budanur Festival. District Collector Dr. Kumar inspected the helipad site and emphasized that all safety measures must be strictly followed. Officials reviewed arrangements for public safety, vehicle parking, emergency services, and crowd management to ensure smooth operations. Authorities have directed strict adherence to rules to prevent accidents and inconvenience to visitors. The initiative aims to enhance the festival experience while maintaining high safety standards for tourists and local attendees alike.

₹1.80 CRORE ROAD WORKS LAUNCHED KAMALNAGAR

Chavan emphasized Kamalnagar's development, including new Praja Soudha, schools, fire station, and promised phased road, water, and education improvements

BIDAR

MLA Prabhu Chavan inaugurated CC road and drainage works worth ₹1.80 crore in multiple wards of Kamalnagar town on Thursday by performing the groundbreaking ceremony. The works aim to improve the daily commute and provide better infrastructure to the public, following complaints received during his recent village visits.

Speaking on the occasion, Chavan said he had promised development projects to the residents and has now launched these works across several wards. He warned officials and contractors that strict attention must be paid to curing, quality, and timely completion. "Any delay or negligence will not be tolerated, and bills will be withheld if deficiencies are found," he said. He also urged residents to monitor ongoing works and immediately report lapses or quality issues for public cooperation in ensuring durable development.

Chavan highlighted his efforts for the overall development of Kamalnagar, which has recently been upgraded from a Gram Panchayat to a Town Panchayat. Key projects include a new Praja Soudha building, KPS school, Fire Station, and Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Residential School. He assured that pending demands for better roads, drinking water, and educational infrastructure will be addressed in phases.

Later, he performed the groundbreaking ceremony for CC road and drainage works worth ₹70 lakhs in Holasamudra village. He also listened to local grievances and assured necessary action.

Local leaders including Ramashetty Pannale, Shivanand Wadde, Dhondiba Narote, Mallappa Dana, Arahant Sawale, Kiran Patil, Nagesh Patre, Bunty Rampure, Mallu Nawade, Rangarao Jadhav, Mahadev Malakari, Mahadev Changune, Ravi Karbari, and Baburao Shetteppa, along with officials and residents, were present during the event.

Shivaji's courage inspires millions across India

Rahim Khan praised Shivaji Maharaj as a visionary warrior and administrator, respecting women, protecting farmers, building a navy, and promoting unity, urging truth about his legacy

BIDAR

Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj's courage, patriotism, and visionary leadership continue to inspire millions, said Rahim Khan, Minister for Municipal Administration and Haj, while inaugurating the Shivaji Jayanti celebration on Thursday at Poojya Dr. Channabasava Pattadevaru Rangamandir. The event was jointly organised by the district administration, Zilla Panchayat, City Corporation, and the Department of Kannada and Culture, Bidar.

Rahim Khan said Shivaji Maharaj was an unparalleled warrior and efficient administrator who dreamt of Swarajya at a young age and turned it into reality. He respected women, protected farmers' interests, and built a strong navy, establishing himself as a people-friendly ruler. "Shivaji's army included people from all religions. His history is sometimes misrepresented. It is our duty to present the true facts," he added, assuring continued government support for the Maratha community.

Bidar MP Sagar Khandre said Shivaji Maharaj fought against injustice and oppression. "We must follow his ideals every day, not just on his birth anniversary," he said, announcing ₹50 lakh for constructing a Maratha community hall.

The programme began with a procession carrying Shivaji Maharaj's portrait from Shivaji Circle, passing through Bhagat Singh, Basaveshwar, Ambedkar, and Rotary Circles before reaching the venue.

Bidar City Municipal Council President Mohammed Ghouse, Guarantee Schemes Implementation Committee Chairman Amruthrao Chimkode, Zilla Panchayat CEO Dr. Girish Badole, Additional Deputy Commissioner Shivanand Karale, Assistant Director of Kannada and Culture Department Sidram Sindhe, Shivaji Jayanti Utsav Committee President Raghunathrao Jadhav, office-bearers of various organisations, and members of the public attended the celebration.

The event highlighted Shivaji Maharaj's timeless courage and his commitment to unity, justice, and good governance, inspiring citizens to adopt his principles in their lives.

SBI donates bicycles to students under CSR fund

CHITRADURGA

The Chitradurga SBI Branch has provided 100 free bicycles to Class 8 students of the Government Pre-University College for Girls under its CSR fund. Parents and teachers have contributed bicycles for the remaining 15 students. The bicycles will be officially handed over to the students by District In-Charge Minister Sudhakar D on February 21. Officials said the initiative aims to support students' education by easing their daily commute to school.

Farmers can regularize tube well electricity connections

CHIKKABALAPURA

Farmers using electricity for irrigation tube wells in Chikkaballapura and Chintamani Division can regularize their connections by paying Rs. 50 and obtaining an RR number from Bevicom. Executive Engineer P.G. Ramesh Kumar said that, as per government orders, those who have paid Rs. 50 must complete the infrastructure fee payment by March 31 to maintain legal electricity access. Unauthorized usage without payment will lead to disconnection.

Dr. Bhat ordered proper lighting installation, criticized corridor storage of medicines and equipment, and stressed timely delivery before expiry

State Human Rights Chief inspects district hospital

UDUPI

Honorable Chairman of the Karnataka State Human Rights Commission, Dr. T. Shyam Bhat, along with member S. K. Vantigodi, visited the District Hospital in Ajjarkad today to inspect its facilities and give important suggestions for improvement.

During the visit, they observed the registration center, patient wards, intensive care unit, medicine store, and overall cleanliness of the hospital. Dr. Bhat noted that long queues were forming at the registration counters and instructed the District Surgeon to set up additional counters to reduce waiting time. He also requested feedback from patients regarding the treatment provided at the hospital.

The inspection revealed poor lighting in the inner corridors, and Dr. Bhat instructed authorities to install proper lights to ensure safety and visibility. He also raised concerns about medicines and equipment being stored in corridors instead of proper warehouses and emphasized that all medicines should reach patients before their expiry dates.

The Chairman reviewed the progress of the newly constructed hospital facilities within the premises and asked officials to complete pending works promptly. He further instructed the hospital administration to submit proposals regarding additional staff and other requirements to the commission for timely action.

District Surgeon Dr. Ashok, Resident Medical Officer Dr. Vasudev, Additional Superintendent of Police Sudhakar Naik, hospital staff, and reporter Manjunath B were present during the inspection. The visit aimed to ensure better healthcare services, safety, and cleanliness for patients visiting the district hospital, highlighting the importance of efficient administration and public health responsibility.

Bidar midday meal training emphasizes nutrition

BIDAR

Bidar Zilla Panchayat CEO Dr. Girish Dilip Badole has stressed that midday meals provided to schoolchildren should not only address hunger but also ensure proper nutrition to support learning and health. He made the remarks while inaugurating a one-day training program for head cooks and kitchen assistants at Oxford School, organized by the Zilla Panchayat and Taluk Panchayat under the Pradhan Mantri Poshan Shakti Nirman Scheme for 2025–26.

Dr. Badole highlighted the importance of personal hygiene, quality ingredients, and nutritious meals in improving children's educational outcomes. Bidar Taluk Panchayat Executive Officer Manikrao Patil added that meals should be prepared and served with the care and affection of a mother, while maintaining strict fire safety and food quality standards.

Assistant Director Sanjukumar and Akshara Dasoha Taluk Manager Zakir Hussain were also present. Cooking staff were advised to implement the training guidelines effectively to enhance the district's overall school nutrition program.

Consumer dialogue meeting scheduled in Chikkaballapura

CHIKKABALLAPURA

A consumer dialogue meeting will be held on February 21 at 3 pm at the Be.V.Com Sub-Divisional Offices, Chikkaballapura Division. The meeting will be chaired by the Executive Engineer (V) and Assistant Executive Engineer (V). Consumers within the respective subdivision are invited to attend and resolve grievances related to electricity supply through legal and official channels. Executive Engineer P.G. Ramesh Kumar urged residents to participate in the dialogue to address issues effectively and ensure timely solutions under the supervision of the Be.V. Com authorities.

Consumer Commission fines dealer Rs. 25,000 for vehicle repair delay

CHIKKABALLAPUR

The Chikkaballapur District Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission has imposed a fine of Rs. 25,000 on a vehicle dealer for failing to repair a customer's vehicle in a timely manner.

The complainant, Prabhu R.V., a resident of Ragimakalahalli in Chintamani Taluk, had purchased a vehicle from Prerana Motor Private Limited and Tata Motor Passenger Vehicles Limited. Despite repeated repair attempts, the vehicle continued to have issues. Following a consumer complaint (CC No.: 24/2025), the Commission, chaired by Kumar N. with member H. Janardhan, conducted an inquiry. It was found that there was a deficiency in service on the part of the dealers.

This ruling underscores the accountability of vehicle dealers to provide prompt and reliable service to consumers.

The Commission directed the respondents to

1. Complete the vehicle repair within a stipulated time.
2. Pay a fine of Rs. 25,000 for service deficiency.
3. Cover litigation costs of Rs. 8,000.

Applications Open for Food Channel Subsidy Scheme

BALLARI

The Karnataka State Kadugolla Development Corporation has invited applications from eligible persons for a subsidy under the Food Channel (Food Kiosk) Scheme for the year 2025-26 through the Seva Sindhu portal, said Bhavikate, District Manager of Ballari District. The scheme aims to renovate movable snack stalls and four-wheeled electric goods vehicles and distribute them to beneficiaries.

Under the scheme, a subsidy of Rs. 3 lakh will be provided by the corporation for purchasing the vehicles, while the remaining amount can be availed as a loan from banks or financial institutions. Only candidates belonging to the Kadugolla community under Category-1 of the Backward Classes in Ballari urban area are eligible to apply.

Applicants must be between 21 and 45 years of age, and the annual family income should not exceed Rs. 3 lakh. They must have a current bank account linked to Aadhaar, and the name on the Aadhaar card should match other official documents such as caste and income certificates, and the bank passbook.

Those who have previously benefited from any scheme of the corporation, along with their family members, are not eligible to apply again.

The last date to submit applications is March 6, 2026. Interested candidates can obtain more information from the Ballari District office of the Karnataka State Kadugolla Development Corporation, located at the District Administration Building, B Block, 2nd Floor, Room No. 53, Anantapur Road, Ballari, or contact 08392-267038.

This scheme is part of the corporation's effort to support entrepreneurship among the Kadugolla community and promote small-scale food businesses in the district, providing financial aid and vehicle support to eligible beneficiaries.

NAME CHANGE

I, **KHADER BASHA ZUBEDA BEGUM**, W/o Abdul Khader Basha, resident of A.K.B.Mansion Near City Club, MVM Layout Chamundeshwari Nagar, Sirgate Post, Tumkur 572106 Karnataka, have changed my name to **ZUBEDA BEGUM**, vide affidavit dated: 19.02.2026, before Notary H.J VIJAYALAKSHMAMMA, TUMAKURU.

ಪತ್ರಿಕಾ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ
ಅಪರ ಸೀನಿಯರ್ ಸಿವಿಲ್ ನ್ಯಾಯಾಧೀಶರವರ ನ್ಯಾಯಾಲಯ, ಕೆ.ಆರ್.ಪೇಟೆ
ಅಸಲು ದಾವ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: 20/2024
ವಾದಿ: ಸ್ಟೇಟ್ ಬ್ಯಾಂಕ್ ಆಫ್ ಇಂಡಿಯಾ, ಕೆ.ಆರ್.ಪೇಟೆ, ಶಾಖಾ ಉಪ ವ್ಯವಸ್ಥಾಪಕರು: ಪ್ರಜ್ವಲ್ ರವರಿಂದ ಪ್ರತಿನಿಧಿಸಲ್ಪಟ್ಟಿದೆ.
ವಿರುದ್ಧ.
ಪ್ರತಿವಾದಿ: ಕಿರಣ್ ಕುಮಾರ್.ಬಿ. ಜೆ, ಬಿನ್. ತೋಪಯ್ಯ, ವಯಸ್ಸು 40, ವಾಸ ಮನೆ ನಂ.670, ಜ್ಞಾನಭಾರತಿ ಬ್ಲಾಕ್ –01 ಗಣೇಶ್ ಟಿಂಪಲ್ ಹತ್ತಿರ, ವಳಗೆರೆಹಳ್ಳಿ, ಕೆಂಗೇರಿ ಸೆಟ್‌ಲೈಟ್, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು–560060.
ನ್ಯಾಯಾಲಯದ ನೋಟೀಸು.
ಪ್ರಕರಣದ ವಾದಿ ಬ್ಯಾಂಕಿನವರು ಪ್ರತಿವಾದಿಯ ವಿರುದ್ಧ ಸಾಲದ ಹಣದ ವಸೂಲಿಗಾಗಿ ಈ ಮೇಲ್ಕಂಡ ಅಸಲು ದಾವಾ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ 20/2024 ಅನ್ನು ಹೂಡಿದ್ದು, ಸದರಿ ದಾವಾದ ವಿಚಾರಣೆಯು ದಿನಾಂಕ: 07–03–2026 ರಂದು ಇರುತ್ತದೆ. ಆದ್ದರಿಂದ ಸದರಿ ದಾವೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಮೇಲ್ಕಂಡ ಪ್ರತಿವಾದಿ ಆದ ನೀವು ಮೇಲ್ಕಂಡ ವಿಚಾರಣಾ ದಿನದಂದು ನೀವೇ ತಾನಾಗಲೀ ಅಥವಾ ನಿಮ್ಮ ವಕೀಲರ ಮೂಲಕವಾಗಲೀ ಬೆಳಿಗ್ಗೆ 11.00 ಗಂಟೆಗೆ ಸರಿಯಾಗಿ ನ್ಯಾಯಾಲಯಕ್ಕೆ ಹಾಜರಾಗಿ ತಮ್ಮ ತಕರಾರೇನಾದರೂ ಇದ್ದಲ್ಲಿ ನ್ಯಾಯಾಲಯಕ್ಕೆ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸತಕ್ಕದ್ದು, ತಪ್ಪಿದ್ದಲ್ಲಿ ನಿಮ್ಮನ್ನು ಈ ಪ್ರಕರಣದಲ್ಲಿ ವಿಕಪಕ್ಷೀಯ ಎಂದು ಪರಿಗಣಿಸಿ ಮುಂದಿನ ಕ್ರಮ ಕೈಗೊಳ್ಳಲಾಗುವುದು.
ಇದು ದಿನಾಂಕ: 17–02–2026 ರಂದು ನಮ್ಮ ಸ್ವಂತ ದಸ್ಖತ್ತು ಹಾಗೂ ನ್ಯಾಯಾಲಯದ ಮೊಹರು ಸಹಿಯೊಂದಿಗೆ ಕೊಡಲ್ಪಟ್ಟಿದೆ.
ನ್ಯಾಯಾಲಯದ ಆದೇಶದ ಮೇರೆಗೆ
ಸಹಿ/– ಶಿರಸ್ತೇದಾರರು,
ಅಪರ ಸೀನಿಯರ್ ಸಿವಿಲ್ ನ್ಯಾಯಾಧೀಶರವರ ನ್ಯಾಯಾಲಯ, ಕೆ.ಆರ್.ಪೇಟೆ.
ಶ್ರೀ ಎಂ.ಡಿ. ಲಕ್ಷ್ಮಿಕಾಂತಾಚಾರ್, ವಕೀಲರು, ಮಂಡ್ಯ.
ಸ್ಥಳ: ಕೆಆರ್ ಪೇಟೆ.

CH CLASSIFIEDS To place a classified ad contact: **080-41209042**

CHANGE OF NAME
I **ANAND S GOWDA** s/o Subbaraju ase 42 years, R/at Ward No.15 Jyothinagara, Magadi Town, Bangalore South District-562120 do here by declare that I have changed my name from **ANANDA KUMAR. S. TO ANAND S GOWDA,** henceforth I shall be known and called as **ANAND S GOWDA** for all purposes vide Affidavit dated 18th February 2026, Sworn before my advocate and Notary **BRAHMANANDA. T.R** at Magadi.

PUBLIC NOTICE
It is for general information that I, SURESH NARSINHRAO METRANI S/o NARSINHRAO METRANI, R/o No B-04 Rema Sky View Apartments, 2nd main, 2nd Cross, K R Gardens, Murugeshpalya, Vimanapura, Bangalore North, Bengaluru, Karnataka-560017, declare that the name of mine has been wrongly written as SURESH NARSINGRAO METRANI in my PPO No-501198600113. The actual name of mine is SURESH NARSINHRAO METRANI, which may be amended accordingly.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, YASHODHA D/o HANAMANTRAYA BIREDAR, R/o Atnoor, Afzalpur, Gulbarga, Karnataka-585301, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as DHANAMMA BIRADAR.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, BRUCE MICHAEL CHAMANY S/o TULIP CHAMANY, R/o Villa No-41, Himagiri Meadows, After Meenakshi Temple, Gottigere Bannerghatta Road, Bannerghatta, Bangalore south, Bengaluru, Karnataka-560083, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as BRUCE MICHAEL ALPHONSO.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, CHRISTOPHER S/o C C JOSEPH, R/o 1712/1 New Masjid Road, M T Society Colony, T Dasarahalli, Bangalore North, Bangalore, Karnataka-560057, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as CHRISTOPHER. C. J.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, NARPATH RAJ S/o MISHRIMAL, R/o 144, 4th Main, Narasipura Layout, Vidyaranyapura, Bangalore North, Bangalore, Karnataka-560097, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as NIKHIL SUTHAR.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, MUHAMMAD SAMSAD ALAM S/o MUHAMMAD RAFIQ ALAM R/o NO 35, 2ND CROSS, DHARMANA GARDEN, KHALILULLAH MASJID, CHAMUNDI NAGAR DINNUR, R T Nagar, Bengaluru, Karnataka-560032, have changed the name of my minor son MOHAMMAD SAMMAD ALAM aged 15 years and he shall hereafter be known as MUHAMMAD SAMMAD ALAM.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, MUHAMMAD SAMSAD ALAM S/o MUHAMMAD RAFIQ ALAM R/o NO 35, 2ND CROSS, DHARMANA GARDEN, KHALILULLAH MASJID, CHAMUNDI NAGAR DINNUR, R T Nagar, Bengaluru, Karnataka-560032, have changed the name of my minor son MO UBAID ALAM aged 11 years and he shall hereafter be known as MUHAMMAD UBAID ALAM.

Officials must protect citizens' fundamental rights

UDUPI

The fundamental rights of citizens are human rights, and it is the duty of government officials to protect them, said Honorable Chairman of the Karnataka State Human Rights Commission, Dr. T. Shyam Bhat. He was speaking at a meeting held at Dr. V.S. Acharya Hall, Zilla Panchayat, Manipal Rajatadri, with district officials to discuss handling public complaints, case disposal, and investigation procedures.

Dr. Bhat emphasized that officials act as guardians of human rights and should ensure the rights of citizens are not violated. Complaints received by officials must be handled courteously, listened to carefully, and resolved according to rules. When citizens approach the commission for violations of their fundamental rights, notices are issued, and reports are submitted promptly. If wrongdoing is found, disciplinary action or relief measures are recommended to the government.

Commission member S.K. Vantigodi said every person is born with human rights and has the right to live with dignity. He added that citizens also have the right to question violations. Officials must ensure that government schemes and welfare programs reach deserving people, while preventing access by ineligible individuals. Delays in providing services are also considered violations.

Deputy Commissioner Swaroop T.K. said Udupi district's unique geography requires some modifications and exemptions in implementing schemes and programs. Despite staff shortages, officials are performing well across the seven taluks of the district.

Zilla Panchayat Chief Executive Officer Prateek Bayal, District Superintendent of Police Hariram Shankar, DFO Ruthren P, Wildlife DFO Shivaram M. Babu, tahsildars, and district-level officers from various departments attended the meeting. The session aimed to reinforce officials' responsibility to safeguard human rights while ensuring timely and fair access to government services.

QUICK READ

KCA gets HC relief as stay on ground demolition extended

KOCHI

In a significant relief to the Kerala Cricket Association (KCA), the Kerala High Court has observed that the cricket ground constructed at Badiadka in Kasaragod serves a public purpose and that the State government must treat the issue with due seriousness. The court also ordered that the interim stay on demolition of the ground, imposed over alleged encroachment, will continue until a final decision is taken. The Court directed the Principal Secretaries of the Local Self-Government and Revenue Departments to arrive at a final decision within four months.

Class 10 exams begin across Odisha under tight security

BHUBANESWAR

The annual Matriculation and High School Certificate examinations commenced across Odisha on Thursday, with lakhs of students appearing for the tests amid heightened security and surveillance. Examination centres reported the smooth conduct of the first day's papers, marking the beginning of one of the most significant academic events for students. The examination was conducted by the Board of Secondary Education (BSE), an autonomous body under the Odisha School & Mass Education (S&ME) Department. The School and Mass Education Department has made extensive arrangements at schools across the state to ensure the smooth and orderly conduct of the examination, which started at 9 a.m. on Thursday.

GUJARAT BUDGET CHARTS HIGH GROWTH PATH

Gujarat unveils ₹4.08 lakh cr Budget, boosting development and welfare initiatives

GANDHINAGAR

Gujarat continues to strengthen its position as one of India's leading economic powerhouses, contributing 8.2 per cent to the country's Gross Domestic Product (GDP).

With a per capita income of Rs 3,01,000, nearly 60 per cent higher than the national average the state has demonstrated consistent economic resilience and growth.

Addressing a press conference in Gandhinagar on Thursday, Gujarat BJP President Jagdish Vishwakarma lauded Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel and Finance Minister Kanu Desai for presenting the Rs 4,08,053 crore Budget for the financial year 2026-27. He termed the Budget a quantum jump towards achieving the vision of a developed Gujarat by 2047. The outlay marks a 10.2 per cent increase over the previous year and has been introduced without imposing any new taxes.

Vishwakarma stated that the Budget reflects the aspirations of the state's 6.5 crore residents and aims to accelerate Gujarat's uninterrupted development journey. He emphasised that it prioritises the welfare of the poor, youth, farmers, and women under the guiding principle of Sarv Sukhay, Sarv Hitay ensuring happiness and benefit for all.

Structured around a six-point framework; Talent, Technology, Transformation, Tourism, Trust, and Transparency the Budget places strong emphasis on human development. Key focus areas include employment generation, education, healthcare, infrastructure expansion, tourism promotion, technological advancement, artificial intelligence integration, and heritage conservation.

Under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana, 3.15 lakh new houses will be constructed for economically weaker sections and workers. Additionally, 75 lakh families will continue to receive free ration support. The state will deploy 50 new Dhanvantari Health Raths and establish 121 centres under the Shram Annapurna Yojana to provide nutritious meals at Rs five.

More than 2.72 crore beneficiaries will receive healthcare coverage through the Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana and the Chief Minister Amrutam Yojana. A total allocation of Rs 260 crore has been earmarked for workers' skill enhancement initiatives.

Further strengthening employment prospects, the Gujarat Kaushalya and Rozgar Mission has been allocated Rs 226 crore. A state-of-the-art research park will be set up at L.D. Engineering College in Ahmedabad, along with regional start-up centres in Surat, Vadodara, Mehsana, and Rajkot.

Assam announces power, jobs, investment push

GUWAHATI

Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma on Thursday made a series of key announcements in the Assam Legislative Assembly, outlining significant initiatives across the power, employment, investment and labour sectors.

The measures, revealed during the ongoing Budget Session, are aimed at accelerating the state's economic growth and improving livelihoods.

Addressing the House, Sarma stated that the long-pending Kopili Hydro Electric Project will be completed within the next 10 days. The project is expected to generate 150 megawatts (MW) of electricity, providing a substantial boost to the state's power supply. Additionally, repair and restoration work is underway to revive another 25 MW capacity at the Kopili plant.

The Chief Minister asserted that strengthening power infrastructure remains one of the government's top priorities. He emphasised that ensuring uninterrupted electricity supply across Assam is crucial for industrial expansion, economic activities and improving the quality of life for citizens.

In a major push for employment generation, Sarma announced that the state government will provide 55,000 government jobs within the first three years of its current tenure. He clarified that the majority of these appointments will be made in the education department, underlining the administration's focus on strengthening public education and addressing staff shortages in schools and institutions.

Highlighting Assam's growing global investment appeal, the Chief Minister revealed that a delegation of 20 Japanese companies is scheduled to visit Jagiroad on February 28. The companies are expected to explore opportunities for establishing industrial units in the region.

Sarma expressed confidence that Jagiroad could emerge as a key industrial hub in the coming years. He noted that increased foreign investment would create employment opportunities for local youth and significantly boost the state's manufacturing sector. The announcements signal the government's broader strategy to combine infrastructure development, job creation and foreign investment to position Assam as a fast-growing economic centre in the Northeast.

'National problem': Acharya slams Rahul

SAMBHAL

Acharya Pramod Krishnam, head of Kalki Dham, on Thursday launched a sharp attack on Congress leader Rahul Gandhi, terming him a national problem and alleging that his actions resemble those of separatist and anarchist elements.

Speaking amid heightened political tensions, the Kalki Dham Peethadheeshwar claimed that Rahul Gandhi's conduct mirrors the functioning of separatist groups and forces that promote disorder. Just as separatist groups operated in Kashmir, and anarchists promote disorder, his behaviour appears similar. The question is, why does he act this way? This is a serious question, he said.

Krishnam further alleged that the Congress leader has consistently harmed his own party through his political approach and public statements. I think Rahul Gandhi is a big threat to Congress. Till now, Rahul Gandhi was the biggest problem for the Congress, but now he has become a national problem, he said in remarks to IANS. The comments come at a time of sharp exchanges between the ruling dispensation and the Opposition over Rahul Gandhi's conduct, particularly in the wake of disruptions witnessed during the recent Parliament session.

Union Minister Kiren Rijiju had earlier accused the Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha of maintaining links with anti-India forces and alleged that he had met Maoists and extremist elements. Rijiju claimed that Rahul Gandhi had become the most dangerous person for India's security and remarked that the country had never witnessed such a Leader of Opposition before. Commenting on repeated disruptions in Parliament, Rijiju, who holds the Parliamentary Affairs portfolio, acknowledged that noise and commotion are part of parliamentary democracy.

'Major lapse': Chirag assures action over Galgotias' robodog row

PATNA

Amid the controversy involving Galgotias University over a Chinese robotic dog showcased at the India AI Impact Summit, Union Minister Chirag Paswan on Thursday termed the incident a major lapse and said the government would decide on further action after the summit concludes. Interacting with reporters, Paswan said it was completely wrong for a university to display a product and falsely claim ownership of it. This is a major lapse. A university displaying something incorrect in this manner when an AI Summit is being held in the country, such incidents become a serious matter, he added.

Paswan said the issue is a cause for concern, especially because the summit is a global platform and is being closely watched internationally. He stressed that such incidents can harm India's image in front of the world.

The summit is still going on. After it concludes, the government will decide what action should be taken. The way this was presented has created a wrong impression in front of the whole world, he said.

Earlier in the day, Shiv Sena-UBT MPs, including Priyanka Chaturvedi and Anil Desai, questioned the role of the organisers and demanded strict action, including penalties, against the university. The MPs said the incident was not only a matter of national embarrassment but had also led to international ridicule.

J&K's properties in Delhi, Amritsar, Haryana under unauthorised control

JAMMU

The Jammu and Kashmir government on Thursday disclosed that several of its high-value properties located in New Delhi, Amritsar and Chandigarh are currently not under its direct control and remain occupied by other entities.

The revelation came in a written reply to a cut motion moved by MLA Sajad Gani Lone, raising serious questions about how such significant public assets slipped out of administrative possession.

Responding in the House, Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, who also holds charge of the Hospitality and Protocol Department, detailed the status of these properties. He informed that 96 kanals of land belonging to the Jammu and Kashmir government in the national capital are currently occupied by the Military Engineering Service under the administrative control of the Ministry of Defence (Engineer-in-Chief). The Chief Minister stated that the matter has been consistently taken up with the Estates Department as well as the Ministry of Defence.

He further noted that one kanal and 11.2 marlas of land, which were under unauthorised occupation, were successfully retrieved on June 5, 2023. At present, 18 kanals of the property remain under the possession of the Jammu and Kashmir government, and staff quarters have been constructed on that portion.

Apart from Delhi, the government also disclosed encroachments on its land in Punjab.

Altum Credo Home Finance — ALTUM CREDO HOME FINANCE PRIVATE LTD
Regd. Office: Floor No. 7, Kalpataru Infinia, Wakdewadi, Shivajinagar, Pune - 411005. Maharashtra (India)

POSSESSION NOTICE [Rule 8(1)] (For immovable property)

Whereas, The undersigned being the Authorized Officer of **Altum Credo Home Finance Private Limited** hereinafter referred as **"ACHFL"** under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (no. 3 of 2002) and in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13(12) read with rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued Demand notice dated **09.07.2024** with respect to Loan Agreement No. 1182020100222 calling upon the **Nanjappa ("Borrower"), Hanumamma ("Co-borrower"), Sudha P ("Co-Borrower"),** to repay the amount mentioned in the said notice being **Rs. 4,02,284/- (Rs. Four Lakh Two Thousand Two Hundred and Eighty Four Rupees Only) as on 30.06.2024** within 60 days from the receipt of the said notice.

1. The borrowers having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrowers and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with rule 8 of said rules on the **18th day of February of the year 2026.**
2. The borrower/secured debtor and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with property will be subject to the charge of the ACHFL for an amount of **Rs. 4,02,284/- (Rs. Four Lakh Two Thousand Two Hundred and Eighty Four Rupees Only) as on 30.06.2024 and further interest from 30.06.2024**
3. The borrower's attention is invited to the provisions of sub- section (8) of section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.

DESCRIPTION OF THE IMMOVABLE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of the land and building in Property bearing number 26-9-137, Assessment number 266/241, Situated at Babu Jagajeevana Ram Road, Ward No. 3, Saraguru Town, Mysore (D), Measuring: E-W: 8.839218 Meter & N-S: 4.572009 Meter, within the jurisdiction of Registration of Senior Sub Registrar, H.D. Kote which is bounded as under On and Towards **East:** Property of Chikkanarasaiah, On and Towards **West:** 1st Main Road, On and Towards **North:** Road, On and Towards **South:** Property of Dasaiah.

Place : Mysore, Karnataka
Date : 18.02.2026

Sd/-
Authorized Officer
Altum Credo Home Finance Pvt. Ltd. (ACHFL)

ನಗರಸಭೆ ಕಾರ್ಯಾಲಯ
ಚಿಕ್ಕಬಳ್ಳಾಪುರ
ವೆಬ್‌ಸೈಟ್:www.chikkaballapurcity.gov.in, ಇ-ಮೇಲ್: itstaff_ ulb_ chickballapur@yahoo.co.in, ದೂರವಾಣಿ: 08156-275557,
ಫ್ಯಾಕ್ಸ್: 08156-274742
ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: ನ.ಸ.ಚಿ/ತಾ.ಶಾ/ಸಿ.ಆರ್/ಟೆಂ-28/2025-26 ದಿನಾಂಕ : 09.02.2026

ಇ-ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ

ಪೌರಾಯುಕ್ತರು, ನಗರಸಭೆ, ಚಿಕ್ಕಬಳ್ಳಾಪುರ ರವರು ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಪಾರದರ್ಶಕತೆ ಅಧಿನಿಯಮ 2000ರಂತೆ ಅಮೃತ್-2.0 ಯೋಜನೆಯಡಿ ನಗರಸಭೆ ವ್ಯಾಪ್ತಿಯ ವಾರ್ಡ್ ನಂ.6ರ ಓ.ಹೆಚ್.ಟಿ ಹತ್ತಿರ ಪಾರ್ಕ್ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿಪಡಿಸುವ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿ ಕೆಲಸವನ್ನು ನಿರ್ವಹಿಸಲು ಅರ್ಹ ನೋಂದಾಯಿತ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರಿಂದ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ನ್ನು (ಇ-ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್-2.0) ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ವೆಬ್‌ಸೈಟ್ **https:kppp.karnataka.gov.in** ಮೂಲಕ ಅರ್ಜಿಯನ್ನು ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಲು ಈ ಮೂಲಕ ಕೋರಲಾಗಿದೆ.

ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಸ್ವೀಕೃತಿ ಮತ್ತು ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕಗಳ ಇ-ಪ್ರಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್‌ನಂತೆ ಇರುತ್ತದೆ. ಒಂದು ವೇಳೆ ಮೇಲೆ ಸೂಚಿಸಲಾಗಿರುವ ದಿನಗಳು ಸಾರ್ವತ್ರಿಕ ರಜಾ ದಿನಗಳನ್ನಾಗಿ ಘೋಷಿಸಲ್ಪಟ್ಟರೆ ಮುಂದಿನ ಕೆಲಸದ ದಿನಗಳನ್ನು ಪರಿಗಣಿಸಲಾಗುವುದು. **ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ ವಿವರ: DMA/2025-26/OW/WORK_INDENT48417/CALL-3**

ಸಹಿ/- ಪೌರಾಯುಕ್ತರು, ನಗರಸಭೆ, ಚಿಕ್ಕಬಳ್ಳಾಪುರ

ವಾಸಾಸಂಇ/ಚಿಕ್ಕಬಳ್ಳಾಪುರ/ಆರ್.ಓ.ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ:441/ಕೆಎಸ್‌ಎಂಸಿಎ/2025-26

KARNATAKA HOUSING BOARD
3rd Floor, Cauvery Bhavan, K.G. Road, Bengaluru - 560009.

TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Through Karnataka Public Procurement Portal only)

Notification No: MWD/KHB/2025-26/SE0339 to SE0350 Dated: 18.02.2026

Karnataka Housing Board has invited tender through KPP Portal for Appointment of Architectural Engineering Firm (AEF) for the proposed work of Construction of Minority Welfare Department – Morarji Desai Residential School in Various places.

Last date for submission of bid is on 27.02.2026 upto 4.00 PM

For further information, contact below mentioned office address: Executive Engineer, Karnataka Housing Board, Cauvery Bhavan, Bengaluru. Telephone No: 080-22273511, Website: **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**

DIPR/CP/5745/AKAR/2025-26

Sd/- Executive Engineer, Karnataka Housing Board, Bengaluru

ಪಟ್ಟಣ ಪಂಚಾಯಿತಿ ಕಾರ್ಯಾಲಯ, ಬೋಗಾದಿ
ಮೈಸೂರು ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ – 570026 , ದೂ: 0821-2331099
ವೆಬ್‌ಸೈಟ್: bogaditown.mrc.gov.in ಇ-ಮೇಲ್: itstaff_ulb_bogadi@yaoo.com

ಸಂ.: ಪ.ಪಂ.ಬೋಗಾದಿ/ಆ.ಶಾ/ಟೆಂಡರ್/ಸಿ.ಆರ್-04/2025-26 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 19.02.2026

ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ (ಇ-ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಪದ್ಧತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ)

ಬೋಗಾದಿ ಪಟ್ಟಣ ಪಂಚಾಯಿತಿ ವ್ಯಾಪ್ತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಸಾಮಾನ್ಯ ಅನುದಾನದಡಿ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳನ್ನು ಕೈಗೊಳ್ಳಲು ಪಟ್ಟಣ ಪಂಚಾಯಿತಿ ಕಚೇರಿ ಉಪಯೋಗಕ್ಕಾಗಿ ಮಾಸಿಕ ಬಾಡಿಗೆ ಆಧಾರದ ಮೇಲೆ ವಾಹನ ಸರಬರಾಜು ಮಾಡಲು ಮತ್ತು ಪಟ್ಟಣ ಪಂಚಾಯಿತಿ ಕಚೇರಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಡೇಟಾ ಎಂಟ್ರಿ ಆಪರೇಟರ್, ಲೆಕ್ಕಿಗರು ಮತ್ತು ಜೂನಿಯರ್ ಪ್ರೋಗ್ರಾಮರ್‌ಗಳನ್ನು ಹೊರಗುತ್ತಿಗೆ ಮೂಲಕ ಸರಬರಾಜು ಮಾಡಲು ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕ ಸಂಗ್ರಹಣೆಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಪಾರದರ್ಶಕತೆ ಅದ್ಯಾದೇಶ 1999 ಮತ್ತು ನಿಯಮಗಳು 2000 ದಂತೆ ಅರ್ಹ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ದಾರರುಗಳಿಂದ, ಕಾರ್ಮಿಕ ಇಲಾಖೆ ನೋಂದಾಯಿತ ಅರ್ಹ ಮಾನವ ಸಂಪನ್ಮೂಲ ಸರಬರಾಜುದಾರರಿಂದ ಹಾಗೂ ವಾಹನ ಸರಬರಾಜುದಾರರಿಂದ **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮೂಲಕ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ನ್ನು ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದ್ದು ಆಸಕ್ತ ಅರ್ಹ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರು ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಭಾಗವಹಿಸಬಹುದಾಗಿರುತ್ತದೆ.

1) ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಲು ಕಡೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ: **07.03.2026ರ ಸಂಜೆ 5.30 ಗಂಟೆಯವರೆಗೆ.** 2) ಟೆಂಡರ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ **ದಿನಾಂಕ: 09.03.2026ರ ಬೆಳಿಗ್ಗೆ 11.30 ಗಂಟೆಗೆ** ಅಥವಾ ಮುಂದೆ ಸೂಚಿಸುವ ದಿನಾಂಕದಂದು ತೆರೆಯಲಾಗುವುದು.

ಕ್ರ.ಸಂ.	ವಿವರ	ಅಂದಾಜು ಮೊತ್ತ (ರೂ. ಲಕ್ಷಗಳಲ್ಲಿ)	ಇ.ಎಂ.ಡಿ ಮೊತ್ತ (ರೂ. ಗಳಲ್ಲಿ)
1	DMA/2025-26/OW/WORK_INDENT54731	5.00	12,500/-
2	DMA/2025-26/OW/WORK_INDENT54752	66.60	1,12,900/-
3.	DMA/2025-26/OW/WORK_INDENT54753	62.00	1,05,050/-
4	DMA/2025-26/OW/WORK_INDENT54858	15.00	37,500/-
5.	DMA/2025-26/SE7232	9.28	23,200/-
6.	DMA/2025-26/SE7271	4.20	10,500/-

ಸೂಚನೆ: ಕಾರಣಾಂತರಗಳಿಂದ ಮೇಲೆ ತಿಳಿಸಿದ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ದಿನಾಂಕಗಳು ಮತ್ತು ಇತರೆ ಬದಲಾವಣೆಗಳಿದ್ದಲ್ಲಿ ಹಾಗೂ ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ವಿವರಗಳಿಗೆ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರು **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ನೋಡಿಕೊಳ್ಳುವುದು.

DIPR/MYS/1702/SA/2025-26

ಸಹಿ/- ಮುಖ್ಯಾಧಿಕಾರಿ
ಪಟ್ಟಣ ಪಂಚಾಯಿತಿ, ಬೋಗಾದಿ.

Government of Karnataka
Panchayath Raj Engineering Department
Office of the Executive Engineer, Hassan Division Hassan.

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION NO -23/2025-26 Dated : 17.02.2026

The tender are invited by the Executive Engineer, Panchayath Raj Engineering Division Hassan on be-half of the Governor of Karnataka through KPPP portal for the following Package works are INDENT NO: RDPR/2025-26/RD/WORK_INDENT 24612 -Tender Amount-131.76 lakhs, which are sanctioned under the head of account of 2025-26TH 2515-00-101-0-29 ZP Grant The work details are available in the www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in portal. THE IMPORTANT DATES ARE AS FOLLOWS Last Date & Time for Tender Queries/Clarifications 23.02.2026 16.00 hours Last Date & Time for receipt of tenders 24.02.2026 16.00 hours Date & Time for Opening of Technical Bid 25.02.2026 16.05 hours Date & Time for Opening of Financial Bid After approval of Technical bid

sd/- Executitive Engineer, P.R.E.Division, Hassan.

ವಾಸಾಸಂಇ/ಹಿಸನ/ಹಾಸನ/1088/ಕೆಎಸ್‌ಎಂಸಿಎ/2025-26

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರ
ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಅರಣ್ಯ ಇಲಾಖೆ
ಸಹಾಯಕ ಅರಣ್ಯ ಸಂರಕ್ಷಣಾಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳು ಹಾಗೂ ಉಪ ಅರಣ್ಯ ಸಂರಕ್ಷಣಾಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳ ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಸಹಾಯಕರು, ಮೈಸೂರು ಉಪ ವಿಭಾಗ, ಅರಣ್ಯ ಭವನ, ಅಶೋಕಪುರಂ, ಮೈಸೂರು-570008.
ದೂ: 0821-2483853, ಇ-ಮೇಲ್: acfmysuru@gmail.com

ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: ಸ�ಆಸಂ/ಮೈಉವಿ/ಬಿ1/ಬಿಯುಡಿ/ಟೆಂಡರ್/ಜಿಆರ್-19/2025-56 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 07.02.2026

ಸವಿವರ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ (ಇ-ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ವೇದಿಕೆ)

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ರಾಜ್ಯದ ಮೈಸೂರು ಜಿಲ್ಲೆಯ ಮೈಸೂರು ಅರಣ್ಯ ವಿಭಾಗದ ಸರಗೂರು ವಲಯದ 2025-26ನೇ ಸಾಲಿನಲ್ಲಿ ಸೋಲಾರ್ ಶೆಡ್ ಗೇಟ್ ಪಾಯಿಂಟ್ ಯಿಂದ ಕಬೀರ್ ಜಮೀನು ಪಿಲ್ಲರ್ ಪಾಯಿಂಟ್ ವರೆಗೆ ರೈಲ್ವೆ ಬ್ಯಾರಿಗೇಟ್ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿ ನಿರ್ವಾಣ ಮಾಡಲು ಪರವಾನಗಿಗಾಗಿ ಒಪ್ಪಂದದ ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಅನುಷ್ಠಾನಗೊಳಿಸಲು ಇ-ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ವೇದಿಕೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಿದ್ದು, ವಿವರ ಈ ಕೆಳಕಂಡಂತಿರುತ್ತದೆ.

(1) ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರು **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** ಅಂತರ್ಜಾಲದ ಮೂಲಕ ಟೆಂಡರಿನಲ್ಲಿ ಭಾಗವಹಿಸಬಹುದು, (2) ಒಟ್ಟು ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗಿಟ್ಟಿರುವ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ – 01, (3) ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗೆ ಮೊತ್ತ ರೂ. 85.00, (4) ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಯ ಇ.ಎಂ.ಡಿ ಮೊತ್ತ ರೂ. 1,27,500/-, (5) ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಷರತ್ತುಗಳ ಕುರಿತಾದ ಸ್ಪಷ್ಟೀಕರಣ ಕೇಳಲು ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 17.02.2026 ಅಪರಾಹ್ನ 11.00 ಘಂಟೆವರೆಗೆ, (6) ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರು ಅಂತರ್ಜಾಲದ ಮೂಲಕ ಇ-ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ವೇದಿಕೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಮತ್ತು ಆರ್ಥಿಕ ಬಿಡ್ಡುಗಳನ್ನು ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಲು ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 18.02.2026 ಸಂಜೆ 4.00 ಘಂಟೆವರೆಗೆ, (7) ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಬಿಡ್ಡುಗಳನ್ನು ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 19.02.2026 ಸಂಜೆ 4.00 ಘಂಟೆ ನಂತರ, (8) ಆರ್ಥಿಕ ಬಿಡ್ಡುಗಳನ್ನು ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 20.02.2026 ಮಧ್ಯಾಹ್ನ 4.00 ಘಂಟೆ, (9) ಮೇಲ್ಕಂಡ ದಿನಾಂಕಗಳಂದು ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಬಾರದ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳಿಗೆ ಸದರಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ ಷರತ್ತುಗಳಿಗೆ ಒಳಪಟ್ಟು, (10) ಮರು ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಲು ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 23.02.2026 ಸಂಜೆ 4.00 ಘಂಟೆ, (11) ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಬಿಡ್ಡುಗಳನ್ನು ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 24.02.2026 ಸಂಜೆ 4.00 ಘಂಟೆ. (12) ಆರ್ಥಿಕ ಬಿಡ್ಡುಗಳನ್ನು ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 25.02.2026 ಸಂಜೆ 4.00 ಘಂಟೆ, (13) ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ವಿವರಗಳಿಗಾಗಿ **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** ಅಂತರ್ಜಾಲ ಅಥವಾ ಈ ಕಛೇರಿಯ ದೂರವಾಣಿ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: 0821-2483853 ನ್ನು ಕೆಲಸದ ದಿನಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಸಂಪರ್ಕಿಸುವುದು, (14) ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಯಾವುದೇ ತಿದ್ದುಪಡಿ, ಮಾರ್ಪಾಡು ಅಥವಾ ಇತರ ಬದಲಾವಣೆಗಳಿದ್ದಲ್ಲಿ **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** ವೆಬ್‌ಸೈಟ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಪ್ರಚಾರ ಪಡಿಸಲಾಗುವುದು.

ಸಹಿ/-
ಸಹಾಯಕ ಅರಣ್ಯ ಸಂರಕ್ಷಣಾಧಿಕಾರಿ ಹಾಗೂ ಉಪ ಅರಣ್ಯ ಸಂರಕ್ಷಣಾಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳ ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಸಹಾಯಕರು, ಮೈಸೂರು ಉಪ ವಿಭಾಗ, ಮೈಸೂರು.

ವಾಸಾಸಂಇ/ಮೈಸೂರು/ಶಿರಡಿ ಸಾಯಿ/1688/2025-26

CH CLASSIFIEDS — To place a classified ad contact: 080-41209042

QUICK READ

Haryana to begin first phase of Census from May 1

CHANDIGARH

Haryana will begin the first phase of Census 2027, India's first fully digital population count, from May 1 to 30. Chairing a one-day virtual conference of Divisional Commissioners, Deputy Commissioners and Municipal Commissioners, Chief Secretary Anurag Rastogi on Thursday described the Census as far more than a statistical exercise, calling it the foundation for policy decisions, welfare programmes and infrastructure planning for the next decade. He said the objective of the conference was to sensitise administrative heads and Principal Census Officers about procedures, responsibilities and timelines. He stressed the success of the Census would reflect the state's administrative efficiency, technological readiness and coordination capabilities.

Days before Nepal polls, ex-King's message sparks row

NEW DELHI

Days ahead of Nepal's scheduled parliamentary election, former king Gyanendra Shah called for its postponement, warning that holding polls amid ongoing nationwide dissatisfaction could deepen political instability and spark further conflict, said media reports. Gyanendra Shah was removed by parliamentary decision in July 2008, ending the centuries-old monarchy in Nepal, according to the Kathmandu Post report. Yet ongoing political instability, frequent government changes, and public dissatisfaction have kept him in the public eye and made his statements politically significant, it further stated.

Shah to inaugurate Regional Rajbhasha Sammelan in Tripura

AGARTALA

Union Home Minister Amit Shah will inaugurate the Joint Regional Official Language Conference (Rajbhasha Sammelan) of the Eastern, North-Eastern and Northern regions of the country in Agartala on Friday, officials said here on Thursday. The Ministry of Home Affairs' (MHA) Department of Official Language Secretary, Anshuli Arya, said that more than 3,000 senior officials, representatives and experts from Central government offices, public sector undertakings and banks from the Northern, Eastern and North-Eastern regions of the country will participate in the conference. She said that officials, representatives and experts from around 20 states will attend the conference, which is the first of its kind in Tripura.

'India aspires to establish equitable maritime order'

.The International Fleet Review 2026 was a clear affirmation of goodwill, professionalism and mutual respect among the world's navies, says Singh

VISAKHAPATNAM

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Thursday said that India aspires to establish an equitable maritime order based on international rules and freedom of navigation in accordance with international law He underlined the need for the international community to join hands to tackle maritime challenges.

Inaugurating the multilateral naval exercise MILAN 2026 here, he noted that traditional threats coexist with emerging ones. Piracy, maritime terrorism, illegal fishing, trafficking, cyber vulnerabilities and disruptions to critical supply chains. Climate change is intensifying natural disasters, making humanitarian and disaster relief operations more frequent and more demanding. No single navy, however capable, can address these challenges alone. This is why cooperation among the Navies is no longer an option, it is an imperative, he said.

The Defence Minister said that distinctive responsibilities call upon the international community to join hands to manage the challenges harmoniously and act in the spirit of mutual respect.

He pointed out that the United Nations Convention on the Law of Seas (UNCLOS) provides a robust legal framework for addressing matters related to the international waters. UNCLOS provides a comprehensive and time-tested mechanism for dispute redressal and peaceful co-existence among nations.

It is my belief that this legal framework can be further strengthened through a comprehensive global naval architecture, one that facilitates information sharing, protects links of communications and curbs criminal activities, including terrorism on high seas, along with the usual role of protecting the national boundaries on a global scale.

He observed that platforms like MILAN bring together professional expertise, build mutual trust, enhance interoperability and enable coordinated responses to common challenges. He pointed that India has long recognised the need of the cooperation. Accordingly, our approach to the seas, shaped by Vision of SAGAR , Security and Growth for All in the Region over the last decade, has evolved into Vision MAHASAGAR or Mutual and Holistic Advancement for Security And Growth Across Regions.

This evolution from SAGAR meaning seas, to 'MAHASAGAR' or oceans, reflects India's deepening and expanding commitment to engage with partners in the region and beyond, he said.

Guj cabinet clears land for infra expansion

Cabinet approves 23 proposals to boost water, energy and port sectors.

GANDHINAGAR

The Gujarat government on Thursday approved 23 proposals for land allocation to key state departments, aiming to strengthen water supply systems, energy infrastructure, and port development across multiple districts.

The decision was taken at a Cabinet meeting chaired by Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel, underscoring the administration's focus on accelerating infrastructure growth and improving essential public utility services.

Announcing the decisions, government spokesperson and Minister Jitu Vaghani said the approvals would facilitate projects linked to water supply networks, power transmission expansion, and maritime infrastructure development. In today's Cabinet meeting, the Chief Minister approved 23 proposals for land allocation for water supply, energy, and port development, Vaghani said while briefing reporters.

According to the minister, the Revenue Department has allocated a total of 1,22,53,096 square metres of land to several state institutions, including the Gujarat Water Supply Board, Gujarat Energy Transmission Corporation (JETCO), Gujarat Power Corporation Limited, and the Gujarat Maritime Board. The allocations span several districts and are intended to support infrastructure projects in both rural and urban regions, promoting balanced regional development and enhanced public service delivery. Vaghani stated that the primary objective is to strengthen infrastructure facilities statewide, ensuring that major development projects directly benefit local communities.

The largest portion of land — approximately 1,20,60,000 square metres — has been allotted to Gujarat Power Corporation Limited at Radha Nesda in Banaskantha district for energy-related infrastructure expansion. The move is expected to significantly enhance power generation and related facilities in the region.

Additionally, around 1,36,291 square metres of land have been allocated to the Gujarat Water Supply Board at 14 different locations to improve drinking water infrastructure and supply networks. JETCO has received about 31,010 square metres of land at seven locations across the state to strengthen electricity transmission systems and related infrastructure.

Officials said these strategic land allocations would expedite project implementation timelines, improve coordination among departments, and ensure long-term sustainability in key infrastructure sectors critical to Gujarat's continued economic growth.

Meghalaya disburses ₹268 cr as land compensation for highway projects

SHILLONG

Meghalaya Deputy Chief Minister Prestone Tynsong on Thursday informed the State Assembly that land compensation exceeding Rs 268 crore has been processed and disbursed for National Highway construction projects in North Garo Hills and East Garo Hills districts.

Replying to a question during the Assembly session, Tynsong stated that compensation has been paid to a total of 2,414 beneficiaries across the two districts. In North Garo Hills, 187 beneficiaries received compensation amounting to Rs 43,96,924. Meanwhile, in East Garo Hills, a significantly larger amount of Rs 225,13,52,897.31 was disbursed to 2,227 beneficiaries.

The Deputy Chief Minister explained that the compensation package covered landowners whose land, residential structures, trees and crops were affected due to the National Highway expansion and construction works. He added that the compensation process has largely been completed and the land has since been handed over to the National Highways and Infrastructure Development Corporation Limited (NHIDCL) to facilitate timely execution of the projects.

Raising a supplementary question, Rupert Momin, MLA from Kharkutta, pointed out that while many beneficiaries who received compensation were satisfied and had utilised the funds to purchase alternative land or construct houses, several families possessing valid land documents were reportedly excluded from the compensation list. He sought clarification on whether such families would be allowed to reapply and have their cases reconsidered.

Responding to the concerns, Tynsong said that approximately 93 to 94 per cent of the land compensation process has already been completed. However, he acknowledged that grievances remain in certain stretches where landowners are dissatisfied with the assessment conducted by the district administration.

Providing district-specific details, the Deputy Chief Minister noted that in North Garo Hills, only four cases remain unresolved. Of these, three are currently under consideration by an arbitrator, while one involves a dispute among landowners.

He assured the House that the government remains committed to addressing genuine grievances while ensuring smooth progress of the highway projects.

Hoax bomb threat email triggers panic at SKIT Jaipur

BHOPAL

A bomb threat on mail created a panic situation at People's University, a private institution in Madhya Pradesh's capital city Bhopal, prompting police to swing into action and an extensive search operation inside and outside the campus on Thursday, officials said. According to official information, a mail regarding a bomb threat was received on the college dean's official email address around 11 a.m., which mentioned that cyanide bombs had been planted in the college building.

The suspicious mail also contained religious slogans. Upon receiving the bomb threat, the university management alerted the local area police (Nishatpura police station).

Meanwhile, the administration immediately evacuated for safety reasons. The Police team along with a bomb disposal squad and dog squad arrived at the spot and started searching the university campus. Police said that no suspicious object or explosive material was found by the scheduled time, however, the search was still underway.

The suspicious threat mail said, Tamil Nadu Constables are being forced to clean the clothes and dirty utensils of Nivetha Pethuraj Udhayanidhi and other DMK mistresses. Many have experienced humiliation because of this. Therefore, former Q Branch members of the MNS and Pak 151 cell, which operates in Madurai, have targeted your medical college today by planting twin IEDs, where both IEDs containing cyanide gas will explode simultaneously.

NCB secures 15-yr jail for drug trafficker held with 4 kg heroin in Punjab

CHANDIGARH

A Special Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Court in Punjab's Fazilka sentenced a drug trafficker to 15 years' of rigorous imprisonment, along with a fine of Rs 4 lakh, for carrying three plastic bottles filled with 4.235 kg heroin concealed in his backpack over three years ago, an NCB official said on Thursday. Arvind Saroye, a resident of Phillaur in Jalandhar, was arrested on June 21, 2022, at Jodhawala in Fazilka, close to the India-Pakistan border, the Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB)'s Chandigarh Zonal Unit, said in a statement. Court of Additional District Judge-II (NDPS Act) at Fazilka, delivered the order on Saroye's sentence, the NCB statement added.

The case began after specific and reliable information was received from security agencies on June 20, 2022, following which the NCB immediately formed a team and coordinated with the Border Security Force (BSF). Saroye, a resident of Jalandhar, was found carrying three plastic bottles filled with heroin hidden inside his backpack at Jodhawala in Fazilka. The search was conducted in the presence of independent witnesses, leading to the seizure of 4.235 kg of heroin, the NCB said. In a separate case on Tuesday, the NCB seized 4.776 kg of cocaine worth Rs 23.88 crore (street value) from a Brazilian passenger at the Kempegowda International Airport (KIA) in Bangalore, a statement said.

The accused travelled from Sao Paulo to Doha (Qatar), and subsequently boarded the flight from Doha to Bengaluru, it said.

During examination of his checked-in baggage, officers recovered four women handbags that had been specially modified with false walls and concealed bottom compartments. These cavities were found to contain multiple pieces of clothing fabric chemically infused with cocaine, the statement added.

Delhi govt opens 25 Atal Canteens

NEW DELHI

Delhi Chief Minister Rekha Gupta on Thursday inaugurated 25 new Atal Canteens across the national capital, significantly expanding the government's subsidised meal programme. With the addition of the new facilities, the total number of thalis served daily is set to increase to 71,000, according to officials.

Addressing the gathering, Gupta criticised previous administrations for keeping the Rs 5 meal initiative pending for years. Taking a swipe at the Aam Aadmi Party government, she said that during its 11-year tenure, the canteens remained stuck in files.

In contrast, she highlighted that within just one year of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) government, 71 Atal Canteens have already been made operational. This is our speed and scale of work, the Chief Minister remarked, underscoring the administration's commitment to welfare-driven governance.

In a post on social media platform X, Gupta stated that the new canteens were inaugurated in the presence of Lieutenant Governor Vinai Kumar Saxena. She also shared that she partook in a meal at the Atal Canteen located in Geeta Colony in east Delhi during the event.

Describing the initiative as a tribute to the hard-working population of the city, Gupta said the canteens aim to provide hot and nutritious food at an affordable price. She noted that the scheme draws inspiration from former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee and is being implemented under the guidance of Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

The Chief Minister reiterated the government's plan to open 100 Atal Canteens across Delhi, ensuring that no needy person in the national capital goes to sleep hungry.

Every person who builds Delhi deserves dignity and access to nutritious food at just Rs 5, she said.

The inauguration ceremony was attended by Minister of State Harsh Malhotra, Delhi Minister Ashish Sood, BJP MLA Anil Goyal, and other local dignitaries.

The expansion of the Atal Canteen network comes shortly after the Chief Minister announced development projects worth crores of rupees for the Trans-Yamuna region, signalling a broader push to strengthen welfare and infrastructure initiatives across the city.

INDIA AI SUMMIT

Modi, Abu Dhabi Crown Prince discuss AI co-op

NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Abu Dhabi Crown Prince Sheikh Khaled bin Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan held a bilateral meeting on the sidelines of the AI Impact Summit in New Delhi on Thursday, with discussions centred on strengthening India–UAE cooperation, particularly in the rapidly evolving field of Artificial Intelligence (AI).

According to the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA), the two leaders recalled the deep historical ties between India and the United Arab Emirates and expressed satisfaction over the steady progress achieved across multiple sectors of bilateral engagement. Both leaders discussed bilateral cooperation and expressed satisfaction at the progress achieved in various fields. They also discussed ways to enhance cooperation in AI, the MEA said in a statement.

The Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi is attending the AI Impact Summit on behalf of the UAE President. The summit, chaired by Prime Minister Modi, marks a significant global milestone as it is being hosted in the Global South for the first time. The high-profile event has drawn participation from several heads of state, Prime Ministers, Presidents, senior government officials, and key decision-makers from the global artificial intelligence ecosystem.

Sheikh Khaled bin Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan arrived in New Delhi late Wednesday to participate in the summit.

He was received at the airport by Union Minister of State for Rural Development and Communications Chandra Sekhar Pemmasani. Extending a warm welcome, the MEA posted on social media platform X that India and the UAE are trusted partners in advanced technology and are working together to advance AI for a smarter and shared future.

QUICK READ

Pak issues demarche to Afghan over Khyber Pakhtunkhwa attack

Islamabad

Pakistan has issued a demarche to the ruling Taliban regime in Afghanistan for allegedly allowing the use of Afghan soil for carrying out a recent attack on security forces in Bajaur district of Pakistan's Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. The demarche was issued when Pakistan's Foreign Office (PFO) summoned the Afghan deputy head of mission. The statement read, Pakistan condemned in the strongest possible terms the vehicle-borne suicide terrorist attack followed by a fire raid on Pakistan military and law enforcement agencies' posts in Bajaur, carried out by Fitna al Khawarij [or] the TTP, Pakistan's leading daily Dawn reported.

Death toll in Pakistan building collapse touches 13

Islamabad

At least 13 people, including women and children, were killed and 13 others were injured after a suspected gas explosion triggered a residential building collapse in the Soldier Bazaar area of Pakistan's Karachi, local media reported on Thursday, citing rescue services. The incident took place at a house in Gul Raza Colony of Karachi's Soldier Bazaar area. The injured and deceased people were taken to Civil Hospital. A District East police spokesperson said, According to initial reports, the explosion occurred due to a gas leak, resulting in part of the building collapsing. Rescue 1122 stated that search and rescue operations are underway.

Indian-American physician appointed acting head of CDC

New York

Jay Bhattacharya, a physician and economist, is taking over the leadership of the Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) as the acting director of the world's premier medical research organisation. Bhattacharya, who now heads the National Institutes of Health, will simultaneously hold the CDC position. He steps into the CDC, which, like the rest of the federal health establishment, has been enmeshed in controversies under Health Secretary Robert F. Kennedy Jr. and has been a revolving door for leaders.

UN report accuses IDF, Hamas of war crimes in Gaza Strip

The scale and pattern of displacement, combined with sustained attacks, have significantly worsened conditions for civilians in the enclave'

GAZA CITY

A report published on Thursday by the United Nations has accused Israeli forces, Hamas, and other Palestinian armed groups of committing serious violations of international humanitarian law in Gaza, including actions that may amount to atrocity crimes.

The findings, released by the UN human rights office, have intensified international scrutiny of the ongoing conflict and its humanitarian consequences.

According to the report by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, intensified Israeli military operations and the forcible transfer of Palestinian civilians appear to be aimed at effecting a permanent demographic change in Gaza. The document warns that such actions raise concerns over what could amount to ethnic cleansing.

It emphasizes that the scale and pattern of displacement, combined with sustained attacks, have significantly worsened conditions for civilians in the enclave. The report also scrutinizes the conduct of Hamas and other Palestinian armed groups.

It states that the holding and alleged mistreatment of hostages by Hamas may constitute war crimes under international law. The U.N. human rights office noted that hostage-taking and inhumane treatment are strictly prohibited under the Geneva Conventions and related legal frameworks. Israel's permanent mission in Geneva strongly rejected the findings, dismissing the allegations regarding Israel's conduct.

In a statement, the mission said the U.N. human rights office had lost its credibility and accused it of engaging in what it described as a campaign of demonization and disinformation against the State of Israel. Israeli officials have repeatedly defended their military operations as necessary measures to counter militant threats and ensure national security. Hamas did not immediately respond to requests for comment on the report's conclusions.

The publication of the findings is expected to fuel further diplomatic debate and calls for accountability, as international observers continue to monitor developments in the conflict and its humanitarian impact.

Trump orders detention of legal refugees

MINNESOTA

The new directive broadens powers to detain refugees seeking permanent residency in the US

The administration of Donald Trump has granted immigration officers expanded authority to detain legal refugees awaiting green cards as part of a new policy aimed at strengthening vetting procedures.

The directive, outlined in a government memorandum dated February 18 and filed in federal court, represents a significant shift in how refugees are processed after their arrival. According to the memo issued by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, refugees must return to government custody for inspection and examination one year after being admitted into the country.

The department stated that this detain-and-inspect requirement is intended to ensure refugees are re-vetted after their first year, aligning post-admission screening procedures with those applied to other applicants seeking entry. Officials argue that the change promotes public safety and ensures compliance with immigration laws.

Under existing U.S. law, refugees are required to apply for lawful permanent resident status—commonly known as a green card—one year after arriving in the United States. The new policy authorizes immigration authorities to detain individuals for the duration of the re-inspection process, rather than allowing them to remain at liberty while their status adjustment applications are pending. The memo frames the measure as an administrative adjustment designed to standardize vetting practices and close perceived gaps in the system.

The policy marks a departure from guidance issued in a 2010 memorandum, which did not mandate detention for refugees who had not yet secured permanent resident status. Critics are expected to challenge the revised approach, arguing that it could subject individuals who were already screened prior to admission to additional uncertainty and confinement. Supporters, however, maintain that enhanced oversight is necessary to maintain national security and uphold immigration integrity. The memorandum's submission in federal court suggests that the directive could face legal scrutiny in the coming weeks. As immigration remains a central issue in national political debate, the expanded detention authority underscores the administration's broader crackdown on both legal and unauthorized immigration pathways.

European spy chiefs dismiss talks as 'negotiation theatre'

ODESA

Senior intelligence officials across Europe have expressed skepticism about the likelihood of a peace agreement ending Russia's war in Ukraine this year, casting doubt on assertions by Donald Trump that negotiations are reasonably close to producing a deal.

The heads of five European intelligence agencies, speaking anonymously to Reuters, said they believe Moscow has little interest in ending the conflict quickly. Four of the officials assessed that Russia is instead using ongoing discussions with the United States to push for sanctions relief and explore potential business arrangements. The most recent round of talks took place in Geneva this week.

One European intelligence chief described the negotiations as theatre, suggesting they serve more as diplomatic posturing than genuine peace efforts. The comments underscore a widening divergence in strategic outlook between European capitals and the White House. While Washington has indicated a desire to secure a peace agreement by June—ahead of U.S. congressional mid-term elections in November—European officials remain unconvinced that Moscow is prepared to compromise on its core objectives.

According to the intelligence officials, Russia's long-term strategic aims remain unchanged.

South Korea convicts ex-Prez Yoon Suk-yeol for insurrection

SEOUL

A court in South Korea on Thursday sentenced former President Yoon Suk Yeol to life imprisonment after finding him guilty of masterminding an insurrection tied to his December 2024 attempt to impose martial law.

The verdict marks a dramatic fall for the ousted leader and represents one of the most consequential rulings in the nation's modern political history.

Prosecutors had sought the death penalty, underscoring the gravity of the charges in a country deeply divided over Yoon's leadership and the events that unfolded late last year. The trial, closely watched domestically and internationally, centered on allegations that Yoon conspired to undermine the constitutional order in a bid to consolidate power during a period of political tension.

Delivering the judgment before a packed courtroom, Judge Jee Kui-youn said Yoon had conspired with his then defence minister, Kim Yong-hyun, to deploy troops to parliament in an effort to paralyse its legislative functions. According to the court, armed soldiers were sent to the National Assembly building on December 3, 2024, and equipment was used in attempts to carry out arrests of political figures.

It is the court's judgment that sending armed troops to parliament and using equipment to try to make arrests all constitute acts of insurrection, Judge Jee stated on behalf of a three-judge panel. He added that the declaration of martial law resulted in enormous social and political costs, triggering widespread protests and shaking confidence in democratic institutions.

The court concluded that Yoon led officials and military personnel in criminal activities that directly challenged constitutional governance. The life sentence reflects what the judges described as the seriousness of attempting to subvert democratic order through force.

The ruling is the latest in a series of legal battles facing the former president since his removal from office. Analysts say the decision will have lasting implications for South Korea's political landscape and serve as a defining test of the country's democratic resilience.

China seeks to rewire global trade to outlast US tariffs

BEIJING

China is seeking to turn tariffs imposed by Donald Trump into a strategic advantage by reshaping global trade relationships to insulate its $19 trillion economy from sustained U.S. pressure.

According to a Reuters examination, Beijing is leveraging uncertainty surrounding Washington's trade policies to deepen integration with major economic blocs and reduce its vulnerability to American leverage.

Officials in China are accelerating efforts to embed the country's vast manufacturing base within key global markets, including the European Union, Gulf states, and a major trans-Pacific trade pact. The strategy involves pushing forward roughly 20 trade agreements that have been under discussion for years. Analysts say the initiative reflects a coordinated long-term blueprint aimed at countering what Beijing views as Washington's containment strategy.

A review of 100 Chinese-language articles written by state-backed trade scholars since 2017 indicates that policy advisers have systematically studied U.S. trade measures to devise ways to neutralize their impact.

The writings suggest a deliberate attempt to reverse-engineer American tariff strategies while broadening China's commercial alliances across multiple regions.

One notable development was a trade deal reached with Canada during Prime Minister Mark Carney's January visit to Beijing.

The agreement reduces tariffs on Chinese electric vehicles and is viewed by diplomats as the first in a series of arrangements designed to dilute U.S. influence in global trade flows. Interviews with Chinese officials and trade diplomats indicate that similar deals are expected with other partners in the coming months.

Drought deepens hunger in Northern Kenya as aid cuts bite

KAJIADO

Four years after a record-breaking drought ravaged northern Kenya, failed rains have once again triggered food shortages, with humanitarian agencies scaling back operations due to funding cuts.

The renewed crisis is hitting some of the country's most vulnerable communities, where families dependent on livestock and seasonal rains are struggling to survive.

In the arid plains of Turkana County, 76-year-old widow Echakan Amaja sits outside her mud hut in Loperot village, relying on foraged gingerbread fruit and limited aid rations. Her situation worsened after her son was killed two weeks ago in a cattle rustling raid while herding animals.

The attackers stole all of the family's livestock, eliminating their primary source of food and income.

When my livestock were stolen by bandits, all my grandchildren came back home, Amaja said, explaining that she now bears responsibility for feeding five daughters and seven grandchildren. Without animals to sell or milk to consume, the extended family survives largely on what they can gather from the land and the monthly assistance they receive.

The aid package—around 43.2 kilograms of food rations and 3.2 litres of cooking oil—comes from the World Food Programme. However, humanitarian agencies have warned that reduced funding is forcing them to cut back distributions, reaching fewer people at a time when needs are rising sharply.

Kenya's National Drought Management Authority said in December that more than nine counties, primarily in the north and east, were experiencing emerging drought conditions.

Officials cautioned that the situation could severely affect food security, water access and pasture availability if rains continue to fail.

With climate shocks becoming more frequent and aid resources stretched thin, communities in northern Kenya face mounting uncertainty. For families like Amaja's, the combination of drought, insecurity and dwindling assistance has created a fragile existence, where survival depends on scarce rainfall and shrinking humanitarian support.

SU DO KU

Brain-Bender: Can You Solve It?

	6	7		3		2		
8			9		6	1	3	7
	1	4		7				
1		6	2		4	7		3
	8		1		3		6	
4		2		6		9		5
	9		4		5		7	
2		8		1		5		6
	7		6		9			4

6	8	3	2	4	5	9	1	7
7	5	4	9	1	6	2	8	3
9	1	2	7	8	3	5	4	6
3	6	1	4	5	2	7	9	8
8	9	5	1	6	7	3	2	4
2	4	7	3	9	8	6	5	1
1	2	8	6	3	9	4	7	5
4	7	6	5	2	1	8	3	9
5	3	9	8	7	4	1	6	2

Solutions to Yesterday's puzzle

Fill a 9×9 grid with numbers so that each row, column and 3×3 section contain all of the digits between 1 and 9.

SUDAN CONFLICTS

Sudan atrocities are 'hallmarks of genocide': UN

CHAD

An independent United Nations investigation has concluded that mass killings of non-Arab communities during the capture of al-Fashir by Sudan's Rapid Support Forces bear hallmarks of genocide.

The findings, released Thursday by the UN Independent International Fact-Finding Mission for Sudan, detail coordinated attacks, widespread sexual violence and deliberate destruction of targeted groups in the Darfur region.

According to the report, the Rapid Support Forces (RSF) overran al-Fashir at the end of October last year, ending what investigators described as an 18-month siege. The city had been the last remaining stronghold of the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) in western Sudan's Darfur region. During three days of violence following the takeover, thousands of civilians were reportedly killed or raped.

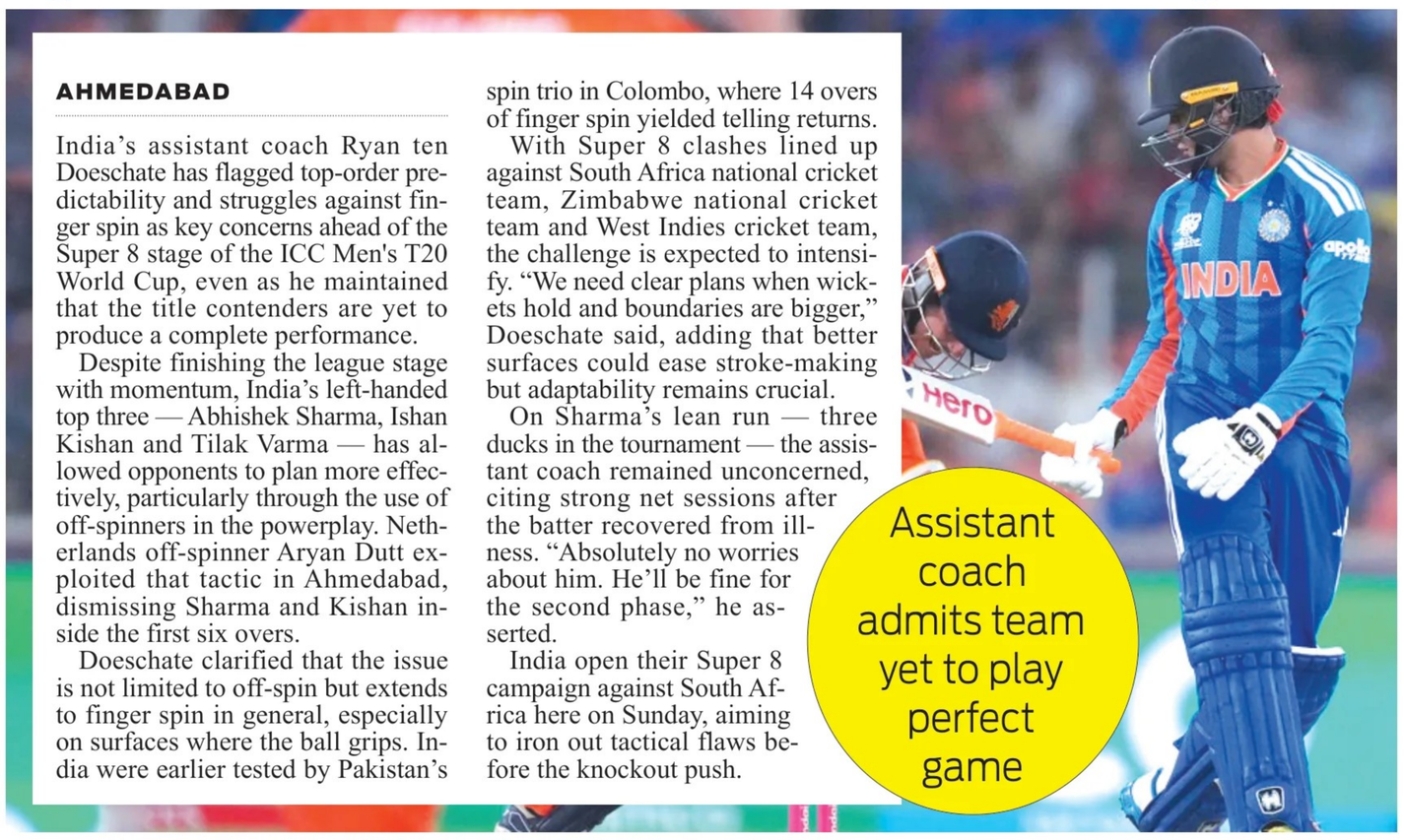
The fact-finding mission said it gathered evidence that the RSF imposed living conditions calculated to bring about the physical destruction of non-Arab communities, particularly the Zaghawa and the Fur. Investigators documented what they described as a pattern of coordinated and repeated targeting of individuals based on ethnicity, gender and perceived political affiliation.

The report states that these acts—including mass killings, rape, torture and deliberate deprivation of basic necessities—constitute core elements of genocide under international law. It emphasized that the alleged crimes were not isolated incidents but part of a systematic campaign that unfolded during and after the siege of al-Fashir.

The findings add to mounting international concern over atrocities committed in Darfur amid Sudan's broader conflict. The UN mission called for accountability and urgent international action to protect civilians, warning that impunity risks further escalation.

Top-Order Predictability,

Spin Woes Concern India Ahead of Super 8s



AHMEDABAD

India's assistant coach Ryan ten Doeschate has flagged top-order predictability and struggles against finger spin as key concerns ahead of the Super 8 stage of the ICC Men's T20 World Cup, even as he maintained that the title contenders are yet to produce a complete performance.

Despite finishing the league stage with momentum, India's left-handed top three — Abhishek Sharma, Ishan Kishan and Tilak Varma — has allowed opponents to plan more effectively, particularly through the use of off-spinners in the powerplay. Netherlands off-spinner Aryan Dutt exploited that tactic in Ahmedabad, dismissing Sharma and Kishan inside the first six overs.

Doeschate clarified that the issue is not limited to off-spin but extends to finger spin in general, especially on surfaces where the ball grips. India were earlier tested by Pakistan's spin trio in Colombo, where 14 overs of finger spin yielded telling returns.

With Super 8 clashes lined up against South Africa national cricket team, Zimbabwe national cricket team and West Indies cricket team, the challenge is expected to intensify. "We need clear plans when wickets hold and boundaries are bigger," Doeschate said, adding that better surfaces could ease stroke-making but adaptability remains crucial.

On Sharma's lean run — three ducks in the tournament — the assistant coach remained unconcerned, citing strong net sessions after the batter recovered from illness. "Absolutely no worries about him. He'll be fine for the second phase," he asserted.

India open their Super 8 campaign against South Africa here on Sunday, aiming to iron out tactical flaws before the knockout push.

Assistant coach admits team yet to play perfect game

Australia to Conduct Forensic Review after T20 World Cup Exit

MELBOURNE

Former champions Australia national cricket team will undertake a "forensic review" of their disastrous ICC Men's T20 World Cup campaign after crashing out in the group stage for the first time since 2009.

The 2021 title winners failed to progress to the Super Eights, suffering defeats to Sri Lanka national cricket team and Zimbabwe national cricket team. Both Sri Lanka and Zimbabwe advanced from the group, leaving Australia with an inconsequential final fixture against Oman national cricket team in Pallekele.

Selector Tony Dodemaide said a comprehensive assessment would follow once the squad returns home. "It's really disappointing the way the tournament has rolled out," he said, adding that the team would analyse the campaign fully after completing their final commitment.

Injury-hit champions crash out, promise thorough post-tournament assessment.

Australia's campaign was derailed by injuries even before it began.

Frontline pacers Pat Cummins and Josh Hazlewood were ruled out, while Mitchell Starc retired from T20 internationals. Captain Mitchell Marsh was also sidelined mid-tournament, severely affecting team balance.

An in-form Steve Smith was initially overlooked and only joined as cover after Hazlewood's late withdrawal before the loss to Zimbabwe.

With Australia set to co-host the 2028 T20 World Cup alongside New Zealand, Dodemaide said planning for the future would begin once emotions settle.

"We want to win every World Cup, especially at home," he stated, stressing that a clear roadmap covering both the 2027 ODI World Cup and the 2028 T20 event would be drawn up after a detailed review.

Umpire Dies, 20 Players Injured in Bee Attack during Match

UNNAO/KANPUR

Swarm disrupts local game, leaves umpire dead and players injured

A 65-year-old umpire died and at least 15 to 20 players were injured after a swarm of bees attacked a cricket match in Unnao district of Uttar Pradesh, police said.

The incident occurred at Sapru Maidan in the Shuklaganj area during a match organised by the Kanpur Cricket Association. According to officials, Manik Gupta, a resident of Kanpur, was officiating when the bees suddenly descended on the ground, creating panic among players and spectators.

Eyewitnesses said the attack was sudden and intense, leaving little time for those present to react. Players and onlookers ran in different directions in a bid to escape the swarm. Gupta reportedly sustained multiple stings and fell unconscious on the field.

He was first taken to a private hospital in Shuklaganj and later referred to Lala Lajpat Rai Hospital in Kanpur as his condition worsened. Doctors there declared him dead.

Another umpire and around 15 to 20 players also suffered bee stings and received medical attention. Police said most of the injured are out of danger. S N Singh, president of the Kanpur Cricket Association, confirmed the incident and expressed deep sorrow over Gupta's death.

He said that when Gupta was being rushed to hospital, bees were still clinging to his face and body, highlighting the severity of the attack.

The association conveyed condolences to the bereaved family and assured full support during this difficult time.

Ukraine Officials to Boycott Milano Cortina Paralympics over Russia, Belarus

MILAN

Ukraine will boycott the upcoming Milano Cortina 2026 Winter Paralympics in protest after a small contingent of Russia and Belarus athletes were cleared to compete under their national flags, Ukraine's Sports Minister Matvii Bidnyi announced.

While Ukrainian athletes will still compete from March 6-15, no Ukraine officials will attend the opening ceremony or any official event, Bidnyi said, urging other countries to follow suit. "In response to the Paralympics organisers' outrageous decision to let Russians and Belarusians compete under their national flags, Ukrainian officials will not attend the Paralympic Games," he said on social media.

The International Paralympic Committee (IPC) confirmed that Russia and Belarus will field a combined ten para athletes. Russia earned six spots — two each in Para alpine skiing, cross-country skiing, and Para snowboard — while Belarus received four in cross-country skiing.

UEFA TO INVESTIGATE ALLEGED DISCRIMINATION AGAINST REAL MADRID'S VINICIUS

PARIS

UEFA announced it will investigate claims of discriminatory behaviour following an incident involving Vinicius Junior during Real Madrid's Champions League knockout play-off against SL Benfica in Lisbon.

The first leg of the tie was halted for more than ten minutes after Vinicius reportedly complained to French referee Francois Letexier over alleged racial abuse by Benfica's Gianluca Prestianni following an on-field confrontation. UEFA confirmed that the matter would be formally investigated under its disciplinary and anti-discrimination regulations.

Vinicius, who scored the opening goal in Real Madrid's victory, had immediately raised the issue with the referee, prompting the temporary suspension of the match to allow officials to address the situation. The incident sparked widespread attention on social media and football forums, highlighting ongoing concerns regarding racial abuse in European football.

UEFA's statement emphasized its commitment to ensuring that all allegations of discriminatory conduct are thoroughly examined and that appropriate action will be taken if evidence confirms any violation of its rules.

MotoGP Australian GP Shifts to Adelaide Street Circuit From 2027

MELBOURNE

The Australian Motorcycle Grand Prix will move from the iconic Phillip Island Circuit to a brand-new Adelaide Street Circuit from 2027, marking the first time a MotoGP race will be staged on a city-centre street track.

MotoGP organisers confirmed a six-year agreement that will see the event hosted in Adelaide from 2027 through 2032. The 2026 edition at Phillip Island, scheduled for October 25, will be the final race in Victoria before the championship shifts to South Australia.

The proposed 4.195-kilometre circuit will feature 18 corners winding through Adelaide's city streets, with bikes expected to reach speeds exceeding 340 km/h. The layout draws inspiration from the original Adelaide Street Circuit that hosted Formula 1 races between 1985 and 1995, though significant modifications have been made to meet modern MotoGP safety standards.

The circuit was officially unveiled in Adelaide by MotoGP Chief Sporting Officer Carlos Ezpeleta alongside South Australia Premier Peter Malinauskas. The inaugural city-based Australian GP is set to take place over three days in November 2027.

Ezpeleta described the move as a milestone in the championship's evolution, highlighting Adelaide's global reputation for hosting major sporting events. Malinauskas called the deal a "major coup" for the state, saying the world's first MotoGP street race would boost tourism and position Adelaide as a premier sporting destination.

The shift signals a bold new chapter for Australian motorsport, blending high-speed racing with a festival-style urban spectacle.

Alcaraz, Sinner Advance to Qatar Open Quarter-Finals

DOHA

World number one Carlos Alcaraz continued his flawless start to 2026 by defeating Valentin Royer 6-2, 7-5 at the Qatar Open, while fellow top contender Jannik Sinner also secured a quarter-final berth with a 6-3, 7-5 victory over Australian Alexei Popyrin.

Alcaraz, who became the youngest man to complete a career Grand Slam at the Australian Open earlier this month, survived a second-set scare after trailing 5-2, ultimately reeling off five consecutive games to close out the match. "There were moments when I thought about a third set, but I focused on finding solutions," Alcaraz said. He will next face Russian seventh seed Karen Khachanov for a semi-final spot, having won all five previous encounters with the Russian, dropping only one set in their head-to-head.

Sinner, returning after a semi-final loss to Novak Djokovic at the Australian Open, dominated Popyrin, winning his last 50 matches against opponents ranked outside the top 50. "The ranking is just a number.

Arsenal Blow 2-Goal Lead at Wolves, Title Race Tightens

WOLVERHAMPTON

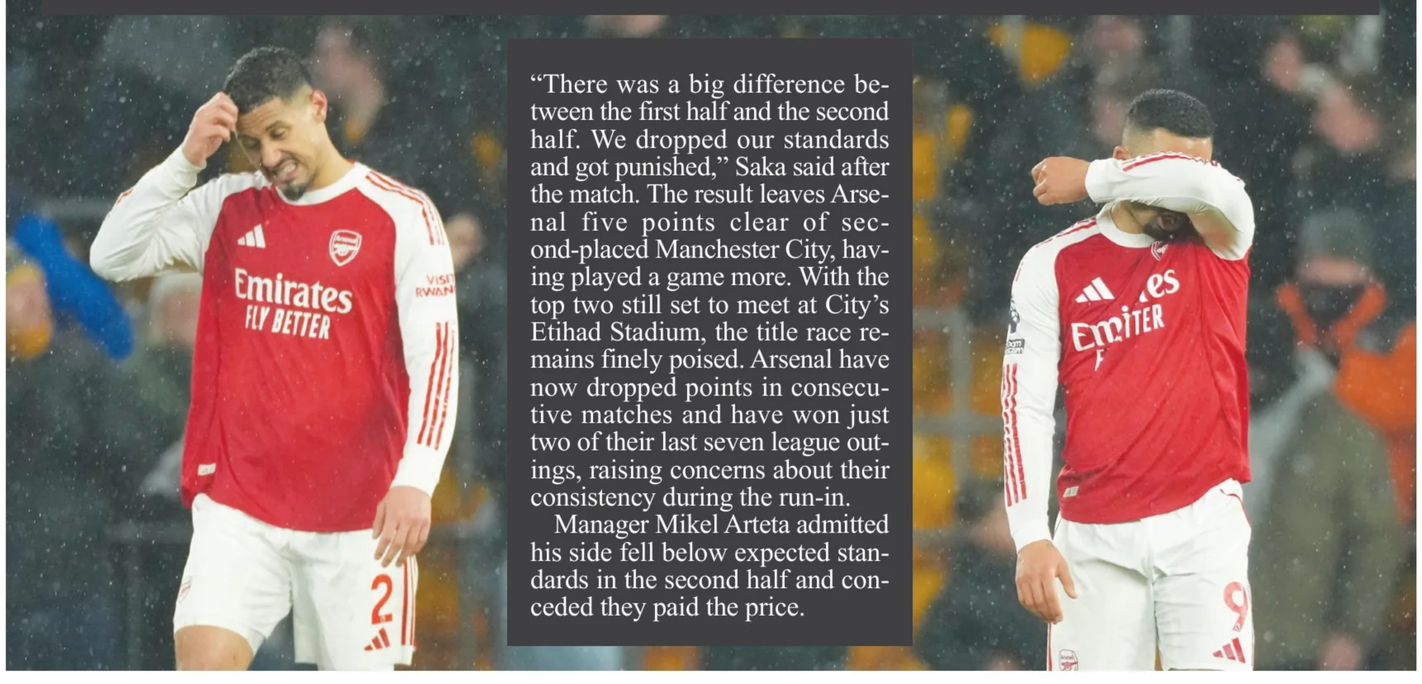
Arsenal F.C. squandered a two-goal advantage against bottom-placed Wolverhampton Wanderers F.C., drawing 2-2 to hand a significant boost to Manchester City F.C. in the Premier League title race.

The league leaders appeared in complete control at Molineux after early goals from Bukayo Saka and Piero Hincapie put them 2-0 up.

Saka opened the scoring with a fifth-minute header before Hincapie doubled the lead in the 56th minute with a powerful finish.

However, Arsenal's intensity dipped sharply after the break. Hugo Bueno pulled one back with a curling effort in the 61st minute, shifting momentum in Wolves' favour.

Teenage debutant Tom Edozie then struck in the fourth minute of stoppage time to complete a dramatic comeback and stun the visitors.



"There was a big difference between the first half and the second half. We dropped our standards and got punished," Saka said after the match. The result leaves Arsenal five points clear of second-placed Manchester City, having played a game more. With the top two still set to meet at City's Etihad Stadium, the title race remains finely poised. Arsenal have now dropped points in consecutive matches and have won just two of their last seven league outings, raising concerns about their consistency during the run-in.

Manager Mikel Arteta admitted his side fell below expected standards in the second half and conceded they paid the price.

Russell Sets Pace Ahead of Piastri, Leclerc in Bahrain Testing

SAKHIR

Mercedes-AMG Petronas Formula One Team driver George Russell topped the timesheets on the opening day of Formula 1's final pre-season test in Bahrain, edging out Oscar Piastri and Charles Leclerc.

Running in the afternoon session at the Bahrain International Circuit, Russell clocked a best lap of 1:33.459, narrowly beating McLaren's Piastri, who had set a 1:33.739 in the morning. Ferrari's Leclerc was 0.28 seconds adrift in third.

Reigning world champion Lando Norris finished fourth, half a second behind Russell, as teams continued fine-tuning their new-generation cars ahead of next month's season opener in Australia.

This marks the second three-day testing event in Bahrain this year, following earlier running at the Circuit de Barcelona-Catalunya. Sweeping regulation changes for 2026 have introduced smaller, lighter cars with increased emphasis on battery charging and electrical energy deployment to enhance speed and efficiency.

The Fédération Internationale de l'Automobile confirmed after meetings of the F1 Commission that no immediate regulatory tweaks were required, despite ongoing evaluation of car characteristics, aerodynamics, energy systems and overtaking dynamics. Officials said further reviews would follow once more data is gathered.

Meanwhile, Aston Martin F1 Team driver Fernando Alonso managed only 28 laps after encountering a power unit problem.

With two days of testing remaining, teams will continue gathering crucial data before the new Formula 1 season roars into action.

India unveils 'Frontier AI Impact Commitments' to drive global responsible innov

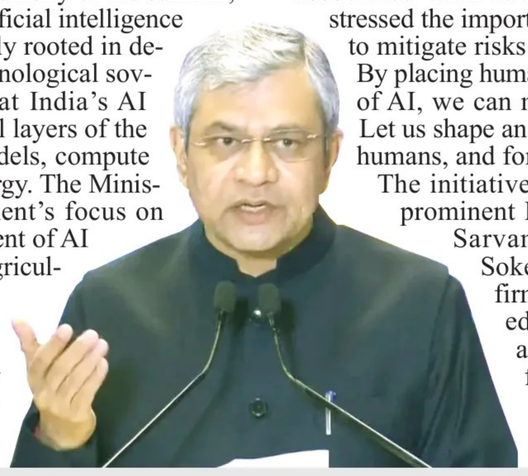
India announced new voluntary AI commitments promoting inclusive innovation and responsible global collaboration

Continued from page 1

Union Electronics and Information Technology Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw on Thursday unveiled the New Delhi Frontier AI Impact Commitments, marking a significant outcome of the India AI Impact Summit 2026 held in the national capital.

The landmark initiative brings together leading global frontier AI companies and India's domestic innovators to promote inclusive, responsible, and scalable artificial intelligence development.

Addressing the opening ceremony of the summit, Vaishnaw outlined India's artificial intelligence strategy, describing it as firmly rooted in democratisation, scale, and technological sovereignty. He emphasised that India's AI roadmap spans all five critical layers of the AI stack — applications, models, compute infrastructure, talent, and energy. The Minister highlighted the government's focus on ensuring real-world deployment of AI solutions across healthcare, agriculture, education, and public service delivery systems. AI is a foundational technology. It is already transforming how we work, learn, and make decisions, Vaishnaw said. He reiterated that the Prime Minister's vision centres on ensuring that technological advancements benefit the broader population. According to him, democratising technology and deploying it at scale are central to India's development strategy.



The newly announced commitments are voluntary and reflect a shared global vision to align AI development with equity, cultural diversity, and real-world needs, particularly for countries across the Global South. The framework seeks to ensure that innovation remains inclusive while addressing emerging risks associated with advanced AI systems. Vaishnaw stressed the importance of collective global efforts to mitigate risks linked to artificial intelligence. By placing human safety and dignity at the heart of AI, we can move forward with conviction. Let us shape an AI future of the humans, by the humans, and for the humans, he remarked.

The initiative has drawn participation from prominent India-based innovators such as Sarvam, BharatGen, Gnani.ai, and Soket, alongside global frontier AI firms. The collaboration is expected to strengthen India's position as a key player in shaping the future of responsible and inclusive artificial intelligence worldwide.

AI biggest platform shift of our lifetimes: Pichai

NEW DELHI

Alphabet and Google CEO Sundar Pichai on Thursday described artificial intelligence as the most transformative technology of this era, calling it the biggest platform shift of our lifetimes while addressing global leaders at the India AI Impact Summit.

Speaking at the summit's opening ceremony, Pichai said no other technology has inspired him more than AI. No technology has me dreaming bigger than AI. It is the biggest platform shift of our lifetimes. We are on the cusp of hyper progress and new discoveries that can help emerging economies leapfrog legacy gaps, he said. He urged governments and industry leaders to act boldly and responsibly in a collaborative manner to ensure that AI's benefits are widely shared.

However, Pichai cautioned that positive outcomes from AI are not automatic. He stressed the need for careful stewardship to maximise benefits while managing risks. Highlighting AI-driven scientific breakthroughs, he pointed to AlphaFold, developed by Google DeepMind, which has been used by more than three million researchers across 190 countries. The protein-folding system has accelerated research in areas such as malaria vaccine development, compressing decades of work into an open global database.

Pichai said Google is also cataloguing DNA disease markers and developing AI agents that function as collaborative partners in scientific research. He underscored the company's growing investments in India, including a full-stack AI hub in Visakhapatnam as part of a $15 billion infrastructure push. The hub is expected to feature gigawatt-scale compute capacity and a new international subsea cable gateway, bringing advanced AI capabilities and employment opportunities across the country.

In addition, Google is building four new subsea optic cable systems between the United States and India to strengthen digital connectivity. Pichai noted that AI will significantly reshape the workforce by automating certain roles while creating new career paths. He said Google's initiative to train 100 million people in digital skills aims to prepare workers for AI-driven transformations.

Earlier, Prime Minister Narendra Modi welcomed more than 500 global AI leaders to the summit, including CEOs, researchers, policymakers, and over 20 heads of state, marking one of the largest international dialogues on AI's transformative potential.

Shunya Labs launches translation system covering 55 Indian languages

NEW DELHI

At the India AI Impact Summit here, Voice AI platform Shunya Labs, a Nasscom GenAI cohort startup, on Thursday announced launch of Vaḳ, an open weight voice AI and a real-time translation system that supports 55 Indian languages and 2,970 language pair translations. Vaḳ is accompanied by the world's number 1-ranked open-weight speech recognition model and a neural text-to-speech engine, all released simultaneously and all free to deploy, the company said in a statement.

The company claimed that Vaḳ is a real-time Any-to-Any Translation system that converts speech in any of India's 55 languages into any of the other 54, instantly, with end-to-end latency under 1.5 seconds.

Shunya Labs said the system also features zero shot voice cloning, which ensures no prior training data is required. Vaḳ's neutral TTS delivers natural-sounding output across all 55 languages with streaming capability, custom voice creation, zero-shot voice cloning, and prosody and emotion control, the statement said.

The system also preserves the speaker's voice and emotional register, it added.

The Pingala ASR ranked first on the Hugging Face OpenASR leaderboard with the lowest ever recorded 3.10 per cent word error rate.

It features a CPU-first architecture delivering sub-250ms latency for edge and offline deployment. The full model weights are publicly available for local deployment, enabling organisations to run the models on premises without sending voice data to foreign servers.

It also aids sovereign deployment for government agencies, hospitals reaching rural patients, and courts delivering justice in local languages.

Vaḳ made cross-linguistic citizen services, healthcare outreach, judicial access, and educational delivery technically and economically viable for the first time at a national scale, the release said.

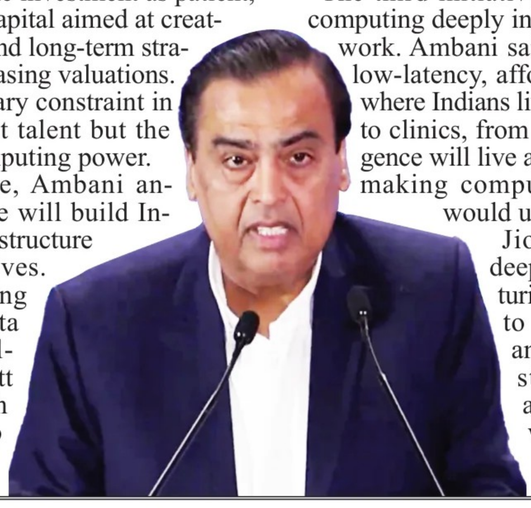
This is a sovereign, self-funded innovation built within the Nasscom ecosystem. Our vision is simple: every developer can build, every government can deploy, and every Indian can be heard in their own language, said Sourav Bandyopadhyay, Founder & Chief Scientist, Shunya Labs.

RIL to invest Rs 10L cr to connect India to AI era: Ambani

NEW DELHI

Billionaire industrialist Mukesh Ambani on Thursday announced that Reliance Industries and Jio will together invest up to Rs 10 lakh crore in artificial intelligence over the next seven years, marking one of India's largest private sector commitments to emerging technology.

Addressing global leaders at the India AI Impact Summit, Ambani described the investment as patient, disciplined, nation-building capital aimed at creating durable economic value and long-term strategic resilience rather than chasing valuations. He emphasised that the primary constraint in AI development today is not talent but the scarcity and high cost of computing power.



To address this challenge, Ambani announced that Jio Intelligence will build India's sovereign compute infrastructure through three major initiatives. The first involves establishing gigawatt-scale, AI-ready data centres. Construction has already begun on multi-gigawatt facilities in Jamnagar, with over 120 MW expected to come online in the second half of 2026. The project is designed to create a clear pathway toward gigawatt-scale compute capacity for AI model training and large-scale inference.

The second initiative leverages Reliance's green energy advantage, with up to 10 GW of surplus renewable power anchored by solar installations in Kutch and Andhra Pradesh. This integration of clean energy is expected to ensure cost efficiency and sustainability in powering AI infrastructure.

The third initiative focuses on nationwide edge computing deeply integrated with Jio's telecom network. Ambani said this approach would deliver low-latency, affordable AI capabilities close to where Indians live and work. From kirana stores to clinics, from classrooms to farms — intelligence will live at the edge, he noted, adding that making compute infrastructure ubiquitous would unlock widespread innovation.

Jio Intelligence will prioritise deep-tech and advanced manufacturing while extending AI solutions to agriculture, small businesses, and the informal sector. Ambani stressed that multilingual AI across all Indian languages would be a core objective to promote inclusion.

Odisha's GSDP hits Rs 9.9L cr, registers 7.9% growth

BHUBANESWAR

The Odisha government on Thursday released the Economic Survey 2025-26, presenting a picture of sustained economic momentum marked by higher per capita income, expanding Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP), and robust growth across agriculture, industry, and services.

According to the survey, the state's per capita income increased by 9.2 per cent to reach Rs 1,86,761 in 2025-26 (Advance Estimates), outpacing the national growth rate of 6.9 per cent. The government noted that this rapid increase signals faster convergence of Odisha's per capita income with the all-India average, reflecting improving living standards and economic stability. The size of the state's economy, measured by GSDP at current prices, is estimated at Rs 9.9 lakh crore in 2025-26, registering a 9.5 per cent rise from Rs 9 lakh crore in 2024-25. Real economic growth is projected at 7.9 per cent, higher than 7.2 per cent recorded in the previous fiscal and above the national average growth rate of 7.4 per cent. The government asserted that rising public and private investments are expected to drive further expansion in the coming years.

The survey highlighted significant improvements in employment indicators. The Labour Force Participation Rate (LFPR) climbed to 64.5 per cent in 2024, compared to 58.1 per cent in 2022, surpassing the national average of 59.6 per cent. Female LFPR also rose sharply to 48.7 per cent, exceeding the national level and signalling stronger gender inclusion in the workforce.

Agriculture and allied sectors contributed 19.6 per cent to the state economy in 2025-26, higher than the national share of 16.8 per cent. The sector grew at 5.3 per cent, well above India's 3.1 per cent. Foodgrain production reached a record 150.5 lakh metric tonnes in 2024-25, up from 143.04 lakh metric tonnes the previous year. Rice production grew by 2.8 per cent, supported by initiatives such as the Samrudha Krushak Yojana and the CM-Kisan Scheme.

TUR PURCHASE AT MSP TO BEGIN FROM FEB 23: MIN

GANDHINAGAR

The Gujarat government will commence the purchase of tur (pigeon pea) at the minimum support price (MSP) across the state from February 23, Agriculture and Spokesperson Minister Jitu Vaghani announced on Thursday. Over 1.33 lakh farmers in the state have registered to sell their produce at the MSP.

The announcement came following a State Cabinet meeting held during the ongoing Legislative Assembly session under the chairmanship of Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel.

Addressing the decisions taken at the meeting, Minister Vaghani said the initiative aims to provide farmers with remunerative prices and economic protection for their crops.

The Central government announces MSPs for various crops and purchases produce at these rates to ensure that farmers receive fair and profitable prices for their harvests, the minister explained. He added that the MSP for tur for the year 2025-26 was fixed at Rs 8,000 per quintal (Rs 1,600 per 20 kg) ahead of the sowing season, which encouraged extensive cultivation across the state.

To facilitate smooth procurement, approximately 130 purchase centres have been designated based on the sowing area and expected production.

Farmers who have registered to sell tur at MSP will receive prior information via SMS. Upon receiving the SMS, they are requested to present themselves with the allotted quantity at the designated purchase centre to avail of the benefits, Minister Vaghani stated. He also assured that the state government has made all necessary preparations to ensure adequate purchases from all registered farmers. The announcement also comes a day after the state government's budget for 2026-27, presented by Finance Minister Kanu Desai, which allocates Rs 24,022 crore for the Agriculture and Farmer Welfare Department, highlighting a focus on farmer empowerment and rural development.

The total state budget stands at Rs 4.08 lakh crore. Welcoming the budget, Minister Vaghani said, Today's Gujarat budget will further advance Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of 'Developed India @ 2047'. Presented under the slogan 'Where there is humanity, there are facilities', it gives special priority to agriculture, health, education, infrastructure, roads, and all key sectors, ensuring 360-degree development for the state.

INTRA-DAY TRADE TALLY

NCC shares crash 10% after NHAI imposes 2-yr ban

MUMBAI

Shares of NCC Limited tumbled nearly 10% in intra-day trade on Thursday after the company and its step-down subsidiary faced a two-year debarment order from the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI).

The sharp fall dragged the stock to its lowest level in the past one year. The stock slipped 9.85 per cent on the National Stock Exchange (NSE) to Rs 135 apiece, marking a fresh 52-week low.

The decline came after the company informed exchanges about regulatory action taken against it and its subsidiary. In an exchange filing, NCC said that OB Infrastructure Limited (OBIL), its step-down subsidiary, along with NCC, has received a debarment order from NHAI for a period of two years.

The order prevents both companies from participating in any tender, bid or request for proposal issued by NHAI. This includes roles such as concessionaire, contractor, EPC contractor, O&M contractor, O&M agency or consortium member. The restriction is effective from February 17, 2026. The debarment is linked to a highway project in Uttar Pradesh that was executed by OBIL under a 2006 concession agreement on a build-operate-transfer (BOT) annuity basis.

According to the company, delays in the project were caused by NHAI's failure to hand over land on time and other alleged breaches of the contract.

NCC said OBIL had initiated arbitration proceedings over the matter and received a favourable award in November 2024.

However, NHAI has challenged the award before the Delhi High Court. The company added that some additional disputes related to the same project are still under arbitration.

OBIL has claimed that the debarment order was issued while arbitration proceedings were ongoing and after the concession period had already ended.

It also alleged that the order was passed without giving it an opportunity to present its case. The company said it plans to challenge the debarment in accordance with the law.

NCC clarified that there is no immediate financial or operational impact on its existing orders and ongoing projects. However, it admitted that the impact on future tenders cannot be estimated at this stage, as the ban restricts participation in fresh NHAI projects for two years.

Shiva's other name is Trikaaram

The team was happy when the first song of the film 'Trikaaram' went viral. Inspired by this, now as part of Valentine's Day celebrations, the release of the second song was held at Utsav Legacy in a grand manner. Political leader Ravindra and actor Shivaraj.K.R.Pet and director Khadar Kumar inaugurated the program and wished the team well.

The song 'Seeda Nintaroo Lok Yake Ulta Kaantade', released by Pin2Pin Music, has been written by Keshu-Chethan, sung by Rajesh Krishnan, and composed by Vivek Chakravarthy. It has a tagline 'This is not a cemetery'.

Drama lover G. Ganesh Murthy has produced it under Sadhguru Cine Production

and has portrayed the role of a dangerous villain. Dilip Kumar.J.R., who has learned to work with many directors, has created the action cut as a promotion.

Speaking on the occasion, the director said that the story of the fight between God and Evil is a suspense thriller. What kind of fight is it and why? Shiva is also called Trikaaram. If we say more, it will be like giving away the essence of the movie. Therefore, Dilip Kumar.J.R. requested the media to please come to the cinema.

Harshavardhan is the hero in two shades as Innocent and Rudra. Similarly, Nischitha Shetty is the heroine as a girl with a soft nature. The rest of the cast includes Nagendra Arasu, Balrajawadi, Manjupavgad etc.

Cinematography is by Honnali Yasin, editing by Satish Chandraiah, adventure by Chandrubande, dance by Height Manju-Kambiraj, lyrics by Dr.V. Nagendraprasad-Bharjari Chethankumar-Pramod Maravanthe, digital promotion by Pawan Kumar. The entire shooting was done around Hosadurga. As expected, the team has made a plan to show it to the public this year.

Matte Male Hoyuttide songs released

The release ceremony of two songs from the movie 'Matte Male Hoyuttide' was held in a grand manner at Utsav Legacy. The tagline is 'Everything is remembered'. Gangadhar, is investing in the name of his wife Suma under the banner of Sri Gaviranganath Swamy Pictures. Shruti Anilkumar has also portrayed the role of a producer and professor. Param Gubbi, who has been active in the film industry for many years, has directed the film. The screenplay-dialogue-literature are by Kabbadi Narendrababu, and the music is by Atishay Jain.

Shravanabelagola MLA, C.N.Balakrishna and senior director Naganna inaugurated the program. Naganna shed light on the problems currently facing the film industry and the solutions to them. Later, the MLAs unveiled the poster of the movie 'Bheema Thirada Hanthakaru', which is being produced under the same banner and directed by Kabaddi Narendrababu.

The producer's son G. Likhith and Jayawardhan are Heros. Sulaksha Khaira and Bhumika Gowda are the heroines. Along with them, Chandrashekar Reddy.AM, Prakash Murthy, Kumari Swarna, Shruti, Dinamani, Kavya Kumari and others have acted.

The director said that one of the short stories written by the writer K. Sadashiva, 'Matte Male Hooyyuthide', has been used. When the producer was informed about the plan to donate the remuneration amount to him as an endowment to the Sahitya Parishad and give an award to young writers every year in the name of Sadashiva, he happily agreed. Kabaddi Narendrababu is the main reason for making the movie.

The film has elements from two eras, taking place in the 80s and 2000s. The love story of the first couple is a disaster. The love story of the second couple is a success. Along with this, meaningful messages are scattered here and there. Paramgubbi informed that the shooting has been done in the beautiful locations of Sringeri, Horanadu, Koppa, Hariharpur, Agumbe.

Milap Zaveri's Tera Yaar Hoon Main Releases May

Actor Arya on Thursday unveiled the first look poster of Kenatha Kanom, starring Yogi Babu in the lead. Directed by late filmmaker Suresh Sangaiah, the film will stream as a Jio Hotstar Original. Arya called the release emotional following the director's recent demise and wished the team success. Set in a rustic village, the poster hints at a situational, character-driven drama with subtle humour and an ensemble cast. Featuring Lovelyn Chandrasekhar and others, it has music by Nivas K Prasanna. Cinematography and editing are notable.

Belgaum's Nandan Pavaskar Wins Mr. Universe Title at Iconic Mr. India 2026

Belgaum takes immense pride as Nandan Pavaskar has once again brought glory to the city by winning the prestigious Mr. Universe title at the grand finale of the Iconic Mr. India 2026 pageant, held in Mumbai.

The glamorous evening witnessed the presence of noted personalities, including producer Ekta Kapoor of Balaji Telefilms, adding star power to the event. Celebrity photographer Amit Khanna captured the most defining moments of the night, documenting the grandeur and excitement of the finale.

The national-level pageant commenced in Chennai and concluded with a spectacular finale in Mumbai, drawing widespread attention. Among 20 outstanding finalists from across the country, Pavaskar stood out with his unwavering determination, disciplined preparation, and commanding stage presence. From impressive ramp walks to intense competitive rounds, he dominated every segment with confidence and elegance.

A visual highlight of the evening was his black tuxedo, styled from Flyrobe Store, Hanuman Nagar, Belgaum, which added sophistication to his winning appearance.

His journey throughout the competition reflected cinematic grandeur — from paparazzi flashes at airports to exclusive media interactions at luxury hotels — marking his steady rise as a national icon.

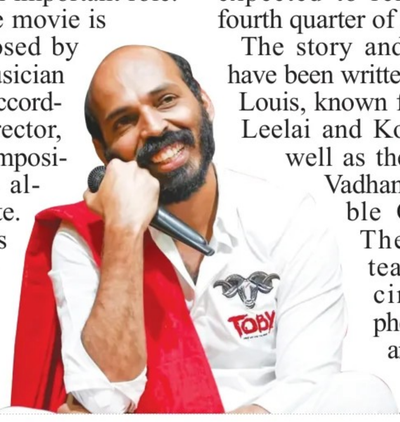
While this victory adds to his growing list of achievements, it reaffirms Nandan Pavaskar's winning mindset and relentless spirit. Belgaum celebrates not just a titleholder, but a symbol of ambition and international potential.

RAJ B SHETTY ENTERS TAMIL CINEMA WITH POCKET NOVEL

Kannada actor and filmmaker Raj B Shetty is all set to make his Tamil debut with director Thiagarajan Kumararaja's upcoming film Pocket Novel. The film will also star Vijay Sethupathi and Malavika Mohanan in key roles.

Raj B Shetty, who has earlier worked in Kannada cinema and has also acted in Hindi and Malayalam films, will now enter Kollywood with this project. This will be Kumararaja's third feature film after the critically praised Aaranya Kaandam and Super Deluxe.

The film also features actor Kishore in an important role. Music for the movie is being composed by legendary musician Ilaiyaraaja. According to the director, the music composition work is almost complete. The team is planning to finish shooting in a single schedule, with small breaks in between. If all goes as planned, the film is expected to release in the fourth quarter of 2026.



The story and screenplay have been written by Andrew Louis, known for films like Leelai and Kolaikaran, as well as the web series Vadhandhi: The Fable Of Velonie. The technical team includes cinematographer Nirav Shah and lyricist Yugabharathi.

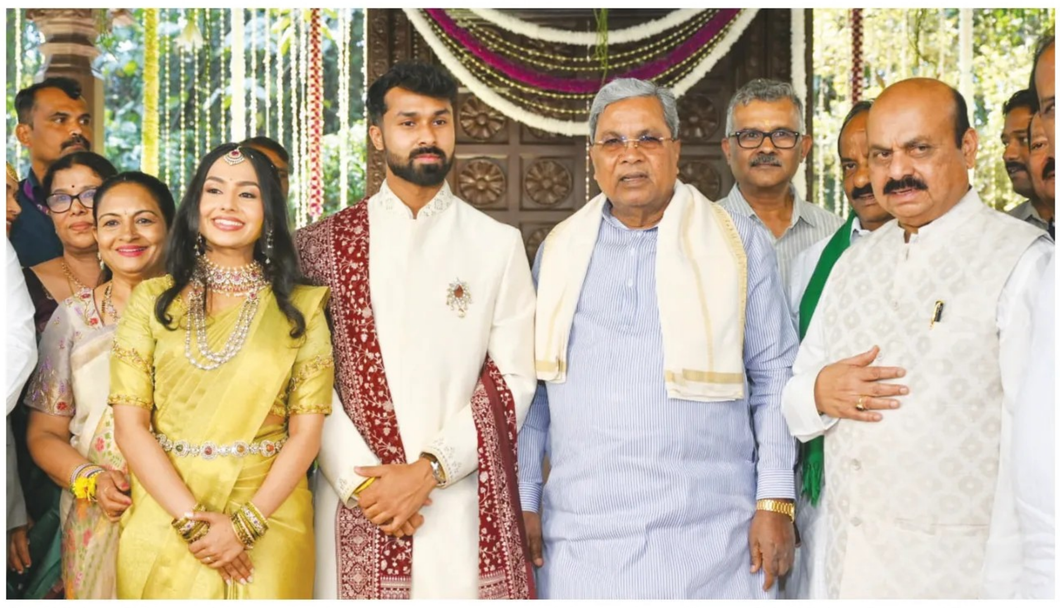
First Look of Kenatha Kanom Unveiled Online

Actor Arya on Thursday unveiled the first look poster of the upcoming film Kenatha Kanom, starring Yogi Babu in the lead. Directed by late filmmaker Suresh Sangaiah, the film will premiere as a Jio Hotstar Original. Sharing the poster on social media, Arya expressed happiness in releasing the first look and extended his best wishes to the team. The moment is especially emotional, as Suresh Sangaiah recently passed away.

Known for his acclaimed films Oru Kidayin Karunai Manu and Sathya Sodhanai, Sangaiah was celebrated for his distinctive storytelling style. The poster presents a rustic village backdrop, with Yogi Babu standing among villagers, hands folded, wearing a simple yet serious expression. It hints at a situational, character-driven drama rooted in natural humour and everyday life.

The film also features Lovelyn Chandrasekhar, Ramakrishnan, Raichel Rabecca, George Mariyam, Mottai Rajendiran, Kavitha Barathi, Kalaipandiyan and Hello Kandasamy. Music is composed by Nivas K Prasanna.

ENGAGED AND ENCHANTED



Chief Minister Siddaramaiah attended the engagement ceremony of the daughter of former Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai and blessed the bride and groom. ➤ CH PHOTO

Lokah 2 *Shooting to Begin September*

Actress Kalyani Priyadarshan has confirmed that Lokah Chapter 2 will begin filming in September this year. The actress said the writing work is currently in progress and she will return for the sequel.

The first film, Lokah Chapter 1: Chandra, became one of the biggest Malayalam hits of 2025. Directed by Dominic Arun, the film was inspired by Kerala folklore and featured Kalyani as Chandra, also known as Kalliyankattu Neeli, a spirit from local legends. The movie earned over Rs 300 crore worldwide, setting a new benchmark for Malayalam cinema.

The sequel will focus on the character Chathan, played by Tovino Thomas. Actor Dulquer Salmaan, who is also producing the franchise, had earlier shared a poster announcing the new chapter. He revealed that the film will once again be written and directed by Dominic Arun.

The Lokah franchise is planned as a five-part series exploring myths and folklore from Kerala. The director earlier shared that the team has a clear idea of the larger story, including the origins of key characters and how the saga will end. However, detailed screenplays for the upcoming parts are still being developed.

Fans are now eagerly waiting for the next chapter to expand the magical world created in the first film.

Vijay Deverakonda Rashmika Mandanna Wedding To Be Private

The reported wedding of Vijay Deverakonda and Rashmika Mandanna has become one of the most talked-about events in the Telugu film industry. However, the couple has decided to keep the ceremony strictly private with a no-media rule.

According to reports, both the wedding and the grand reception will not be open to the press. The celebrations are said to be limited to close family members and selected friends. Though the couple has not officially confirmed the details, a wedding invite that recently went viral has increased public curiosity. As per the invite, the wedding is reportedly set to take place on February 26 in Udaipur in an intimate ceremony. The note, said to be signed by the actors, mentioned that they would begin a new chapter with the blessings of their families. It also invited guests to join them for their wedding reception on March 4 at the Taj Krishna in Banjara Hills, Hyderabad. Reports suggest that while media will not be allowed at the wedding, a separate press meet may be arranged a few days later. The couple is expected to greet the media and possibly release official photographs then.

Adding to the buzz, videos of Vijay Deverakonda's Hyderabad residence decorated with lights surfaced online, sparking speculation that preparations are already underway.

Nick Jonas Applauds Priyanka at the Bluff Premiere

Singer-actor Nick Jonas has expressed heartfelt pride for his wife Priyanka Chopra at the premiere of her latest film The Bluff. The grand event was held at the TCL Chinese Theatre on Thursday night. Nick took to social media to share a picture of the couple walking hand in hand at the premiere. In his message, he wrote that he was beyond proud of Priyanka for not only leading the film as an actor but also bringing it to life as a producer. He praised her dedication, strength and vision, adding that he is in awe of her every day. He also congratulated the cast and crew and encouraged audiences to watch the film when it releases on Prime Video on February 25. At the event, Priyanka wore a striking black structured outfit with a flowing skirt, while Nick complemented her look in a classy brown blazer. The actress also shared photos from the red carpet, including moments with fans, photographers and her co-stars.

City Hilights (English Daily) published by P. Sunil Kumar (Publisher) on behalf of Immaculate Broadcasting Consortium World News (P) Ltd., No. 18, JRV Court, Queens's Road, Bengaluru – 560001 and printed at Manipal Media Network Limited Opp. Govt School, Kempalinganahalli, Near Kunigal Cross, Nelamangala TQ, Bangalore Rural Dist. -562123, Printed at No-7/2 plot no.CA-3/1,28(p)&29(p) Kapanoor 2nd Stage Industrial Area Kapnoor Village Kalaburagi -585104. Printed at S. J. R. V. Printers, No. 208 Plot No. B-019 KSSIDC Industrial Area, Irfan Ahamed Khan Pathan, 4th Main Road Gamanagatti, Hubballi-Dharwad – 580025. and Elegant Offset Printers Pvt. Ltd. No. 5-61/1, Shed No. M-6, Yeyyadi Industrial Estate, Yeyyadi, Mangalore - 575 008. (RNI No: KARENG / 2015 / 63243), Regd. No. BGGPO-2581/2017-2019 Posted at Bengaluru PSO-560026 Email - cityhilights.news@gmail.com Phone: 080-41209042. Copyright. All rights reserved. Reproduction without permission is prohibited.